

OPEN SPACE

OpenSpace Technology began in part to the oft-quoted observation that in traditional conferences, the coffee breaks are the best part. It is a self-organizing practice of inner discipline and collective activity which releases the inherent creativity and leadership in people. By inviting people to take responsibility for what they care about, Open Space establishes a marketplace of inquiry, reflection and learning, bringing out the best in both individuals and the whole.

HOW IT WORKS



Law of two Feet

The Law of Two Feet means you take responsibility for what you care about – standing up for that and using your own two feet to move to whatever place you can best contribute and/or learn.



Butterflies and Bumblebees

We have different temperaments and personality types in the room and so some people will prefer to stay in one session from beginning to end while others will tend to move from group to group. Both types are important and contribute to the process. We refer to the latter type of person as a „butterfly“ or a „bumblebee“.

Four principles apply to how you navigate in open space

1 Whoever comes is the right people

Whoever is attracted to the same conversation are the people who can contribute most to that conversation – because they care. So they are exactly the ones – for the whole group – who are capable of initiating action.

3 When it's over, it's over

Creativity has its own rhythm. So do groups. Just a reminder to pay attention to the flow of creativity – not the clock. When you think it is over, ask: *Is it over?* And if it is, go on to the next thing you have passion for. If it's not, make plans for continuing the conversation.

2 When it starts is the right time

The creative spirit has its own time, and our task is to make our best contribution and enter the flow of creativity when it starts.

4 Whatever happens is the only thing that could've

We are all limited by our own pasts and expectations. This principle acknowledges we'll all do our best to focus on NOW – the present time and place – and not get bogged down in what could've or should've happened.

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