MEETINGS IN A THINKING ENVIRONMENT

PRINCIPLES AND ACTIONS

<u>Purpose:</u> **What is the purpose of the meeting? What do you want to see happen? What do you want them to say or do?**
<u>*Agenda*</u>*: Begin every agenda item as a question.*

<u>Opening Round:</u> **Check in. Go around the room and give everyone up to a minute to say something of personal and/or interest in their life.**

1. Everyone Matters.

Everyone matters. Some people think that they don't matter, they do. Some people think that others don't matter, they do. Everyone matters.

2. Knowing You Won't Be Interrupted Allows You Truly to Think for Yourself.

Allow each person to finish their thought, even in incendiary debate. No interruptions.

3. In Exchange for Not Being Interrupted, You Agree to be Succinct

This allows everyone to have equal time. And you agree to allow us to remind you if you forget.

4. Rounds.

After a major point or at a point we want everyone's best thinking, there is a round. One person volunteers to go first and then go around the room. Each round alternates the direction, first left, then right. About half of the population will not speak up in a group setting. The group is deprived of half of the wisdom in the room. In some meetings 30 % of the group dominates, depriving the group of 70% of the wisdom in the room. Rounds allow everyone to speak and because of this structure we find that everyone does in fact speak up. Passing is allowed if you have nothing additional to contribute or you want to pass for now and then come back to you at the end of that round. Passing also means that you agree with what is being said. It is important to get all viewpoints and have everyone air their independent thoughts. That they think for themselves.

5. Closing Round

At the end of the meeting there is a brief round of appreciation.