Teaching Positive Relationships at Work

Organizers: Kerry Gibson - Babson College

Jason Kanov - Western Washington University

"Blasters":

David Bright - Wright State University

Jody Hoffer Gittell - Brandeis University

Angela Passarelli - College of Charleston

Our Goals

- + We will experience high-quality connections
- + We will get excited about teaching PRW
- + We will discover new possibilities
- + We will walk away with actionable ideas
- + We will have fun!



What do you love about teaching?

- + Pair up with someone you don't know
- + Briefly introduce yourselves
- + Share/discuss your answers to this question

Our Rationale

- + Work relationships really matter!
- + Relational quality really matters!
- + There's a burgeoning interest in relationships
- + Teaching about PRWs provides insights and skills that are immediately relevant, useful
- + Teaching about PRWs can be harder than it may initially seem

Our Plan

- + Three "teaching blasts" (~10 minutes each)

 Jody Hoffer Gittell (Relational Mapping)

 Angela Passarelli (Appreciative Team Huddles)

 David Bright (Reality Creation Process)
- + Brief Q & A
- + Short break/time to mingle
- + Create Workgroups based on PRW topic
- + Facilitated workgroups will develop teaching tool(s)
- + Informal presentations of groups' tools/ideas



Appreciative Team Huddle

- + A short exercise for reinforcing best-self image & leveraging strengths in teams
- + Importance:
 - (1) Emphasizes role of PR's in teamwork
 - (2) Underscores value of drawing out strengths & affirming best selves
 - (3) offers positive adjournment of team experience
- + Used with undergraduates at the end of team coaching session after team project



Basic Lesson Plan

- + Takes 5-10 minutes, depending on group size
- + Team members stand shoulder-to-shoulder in a circle, then take small step back (physical proximity is important!)
- + Explain instructions and keep time (30-60 seconds per person)
- + Finish with hand-stack (physical touch again!)

Tips and Troubleshooting

- + Expect initial skepticism / anxiety
- + Consider "priming" students by asking them to consider others' contributions in advance
- + Select shorter period of time for smaller groups (30 sec/person) and hold it consistent for all team members
- + Variation includes incrementally joining subgroups to form one large huddle for cohort



Jody Hoffer Gittell

Relational Mapping



Relational Mapping

- + Mapping is a way to assess the current state of relational coordination between roles in a work process as a basis for collective sense-making
- + Gives participants a systems perspective of their strengths and opportunities
- + Used in MBA HRM and OB courses, MBA Team Consulting Projects, and in Exec Education
- + Used by consultants for organizational change
- + Let's try it now! See your handout!

Relational mapping

- Identify a work process that needs better coordination maybe "supporting MBA student success"
- Which workgroups are involved?
- Draw a circle for each workgroup and lines connecting between them
 - WEAK RC = RED
 - MODERATE RC = BLUE
 - STRONG RC = GREEN
 - Color of the circle says how we are doing within each workgroup,
 color of the line says how we are doing between the workgroups

Relational mapping of current state



RC = Shared Goals, Shared Knowledge, Mutual Respect,
Supported by Frequent, Timely, Accurate, Problem-Solving Communication

Workgroup 4

Workgroup 2

Workgroup 3

Basic Lesson Plan

- + Create teams of four to six people
- + Choose the organizations your teams will assess ideally one of their own organizations
- + Teams need a table or section of wall, large white paper, and red, blue, green, & black markers
- + 10 min (intro, set up), 40 min (mapping, discussion), 5 min per group (debrief in "Walk Around")

Tips and Troubleshooting

- Relational mapping can be sensitive like "looking into the mirror together" or "putting the elephant on the table"
- Create a safe space for participants that enables them to share sensitive feedback respectfully, particularly across people with different levels of power and status
- Mapping is not a report card, rather a starting point for conversation, sense-making, and systems thinking
- These role relationships are artifacts that we inherited we didn't create them but we can change them!





Definitions and Assumptions

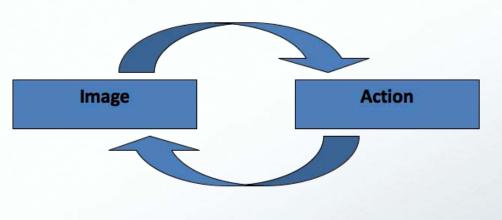
Reality: A subjectively experienced state of being

Key Idea: We all have the ability to shape the interpersonal reality we experience with others.

Key Insight: Positive relationships don't just happen, we must intentionally shape the reality we create with others!



Assumptions Narratives Values



Language Behaviors Choices

Examples:

Placebo Effect

Pygmalian Effect

Galatea Effect

The Exercise: ProHealth vs. HealthCore

- + Organize the class into groups of 4-6
- + Each group receives a case description for one of two organizations
- + The members read their assigned case silently.
- + They answer the questions at the end of each case as a group.
- + Each group presents its case to the class.
- + Review the handout with the actual cases.

Typical Report for HealthCore

- +This organization is going downhill fast!
- +The leader should be fired.
- +Layoffs should be carried out ASAP
- +A successful outcome: the hospital survives and is more cost efficient.
- +I would NEVER work for this hospital.

Typical Report for ProHealth

- +This organization has a lot of potential.
- +The leader is very effective and enjoys huge loyalty from employees they love him!
- +Decisions about layoffs should engage employees
- +A successful outcome: The hospital will thrive no employee will permanently lose a job.
- +I would LOVE to work in this hospital.



+ I read paragraphs from each case.

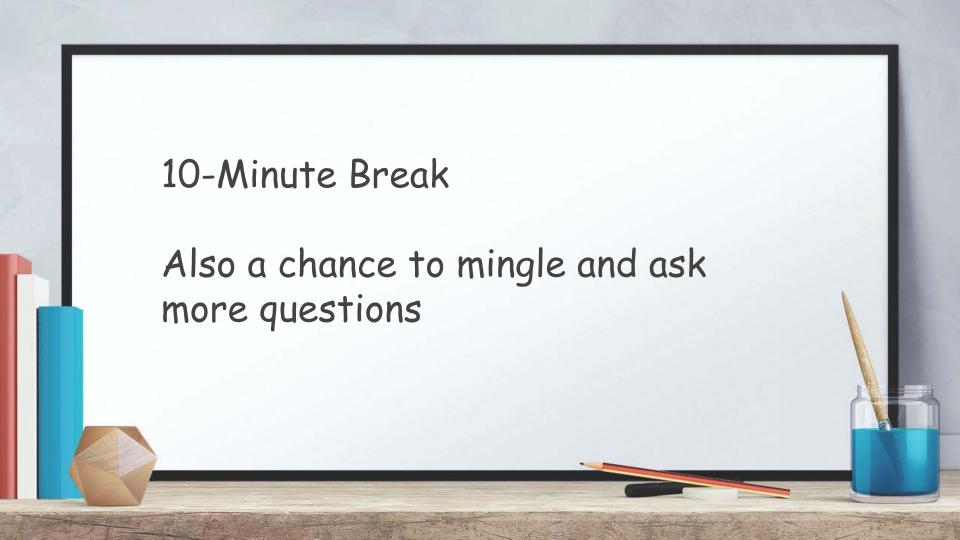
+ The students discover that these descriptions are nearly identical.

+ This is, in fact, a single organization.

Outcomes and Debrief

- + We discuss how it is that each group shaped its assumptions (expected reality) of the organization.
- + We explore the many ways in which we shape the reality we find ourselves in, including in relationships.
- + We talk about the importance of intentionality.
- + Many students are disoriented it sometimes takes a few days to process.





Overview for the Remainder of PDW

- + Review & briefly discuss workgroup themes
- + Form groups of 4-6 people each
- + ~60 minutes to develop a teaching tool and basic lesson plan pertaining to theme
- + Groups will informally present their work
- + Audience will ask questions/offer feedback

Workgroup Themes

- +Empathy
- +Trust
- +Mindfulness
- +Corrosive connections

- +Relational repair
- +Task enabling
- +Other (TBD by group)

Further Guidance

Teaching "Tool" Ideas

- + In-class exercises
- + Homework assignments
- + Experiential activities
- + Long-term projects
- + Media-based tasks
- + Reflective writing
- + Course design elements
- + Combinations of ideas

 Other ideas...

"Lesson Plan" Contents

- + Who? (UG, MBA, Exec...)
- + What? (basic instructions)
- + When? (timing in course)
- + Where? (space, in/out class)
- + Why? (learning goals)
- + How? (assumed prior knowl., req. resources, discussion ques., eval. methods/rubrics, other supporting stuff...)





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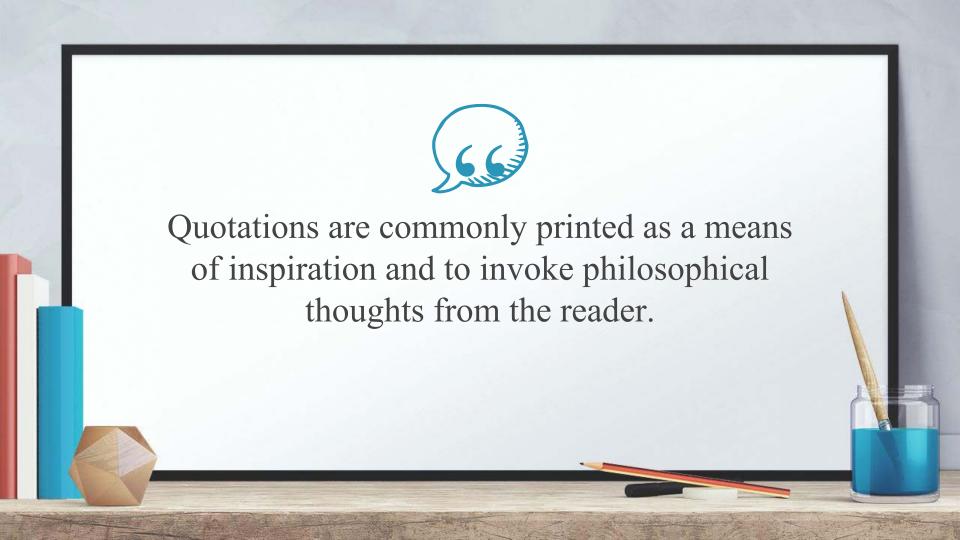
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- + Here you have a list of items
- + And some text
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Your audience will listen to you or read the content, but won't do both.



In two or three columns

Yellow
Is the color of gold,
butter and ripe lemons.
In the spectrum of
visible light, yellow is
found between green
and orange.

Blue
Is the colour of the clear
sky and the deep sea. It
is located between violet
and green on the optical

spectrum.

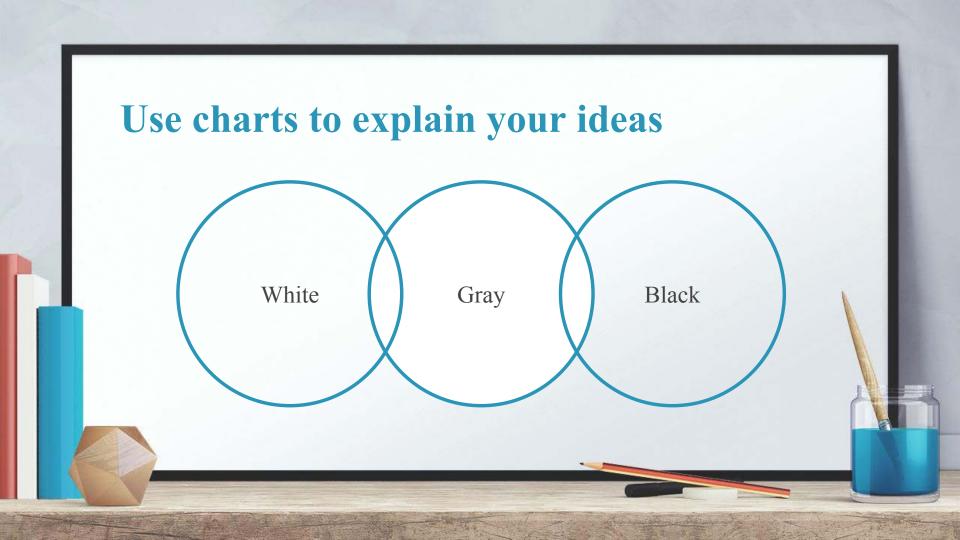
Red
Is the color of blood,
and because of this it has
historically been
associated with sacrifice,
danger and courage.



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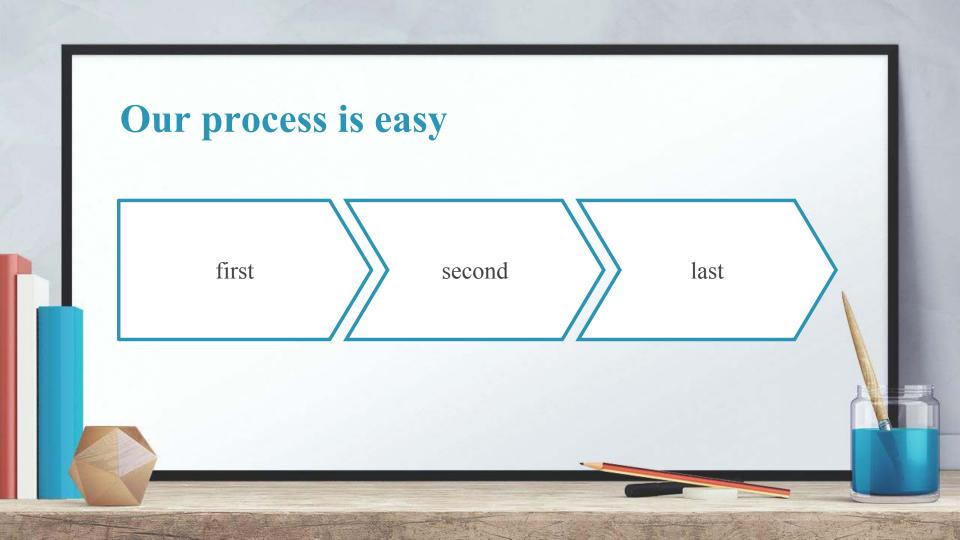
And tables to compare data

	A	В	С
Yellow	10	20	7
Blue	30	15	10
Orange	5	24	16









Let's review some concepts

Yellow

Is the color of gold, butter and ripe lemons. In the spectrum of visible light, yellow is found between green and orange.

Yellow

Is the color of gold, butter and ripe lemons. In the spectrum of visible light, yellow is found between green and orange.

Blue

Is the colour of the clear sky and the deep sea. It is located between violet and green on the optical spectrum.

Blue

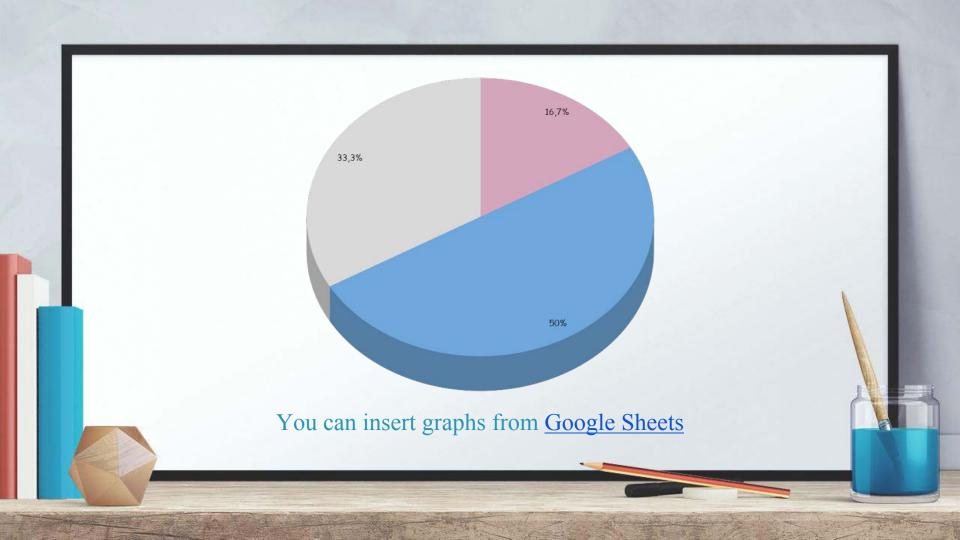
Is the colour of the clear sky and the deep sea. It is located between violet and green on the optical spectrum.

Red

Is the color of blood, and because of this it has historically been associated with sacrifice, danger and courage.

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