

Group Works

A Pattern Language for Bringing Life to Meetings and Other Gatherings

Applications

Four basic categories of how to use the cards:

- 1. Learning & Study*
- 2. Planning*
- 3. Actively in the Session*
- 4. Evaluation & Debriefing*

1. Learning & Study (by individuals or groups)

- Pick out which patterns you are already skilled at, and which you wish to improve on. Look at how to practice and improve at the latter.
- Choose a card of the day/week/month to study, consider, and hold in your attention.
- Make up games to do with the cards.

2. Planning

- Choose which patterns are the most important for your event to meet its goals, and orient the design work around them.
- View each of the nine categories and see what guidance each suggests. You could even make a grid with the categories on rows and time periods on columns (e.g. far in advance of session, final prep, during session, and follow-up).
- Map out your session using the cards, in sequence.

3. Actively in the Session

- Shortly before the session, select a card for personal guidance as a facilitator.
- As part of the opening of the meeting, invite someone from the group to select a card at random for the group to keep in mind for the duration.
- Ask each person present to select a card, share them, and then take responsibility for stewarding that pattern during the meeting, thus sharing responsibility for good process.
- If the group gets stuck, pick a card.

4. Evaluation & Debriefing

- If you used the cards or categories in planning, go back to those same patterns for the debrief discussion and consider how you fulfilled each or how it could have been better.
- Choose a few patterns at random and consider your event in light of them.