

Local Action Module

CONSULTATION INTRO WORKSHOP

Introducing Consultation

This module introduces the idea of consultation as a valuable tool for working in groups. It is designed for youth and uses drama and science to illustrate the idea of the "light of truth". The module takes about 40 minutes for a small group and longer for larger groups.

Printing the Document

Print the following in black and white:

- Pages 3-4 Facilitator Guide (1 copy)
- Page 5 Script (6 copies)

Supplies

This is what you'll need for this module:

- Elephant (toy, drawing or photo)
- 3 flashlights (at least)
- Scripts (see Printing the Document above)
- Stack of plain white paper
- Color filters (colored transparent plastic sheets) in red, blue and green (see below)
- Painter's tape (*optional* - if you want to tape the paper to the wall)

Sources for specialty supplies:

Elephant

- **No cost:** borrow a toy elephant from a friend or neighbor.
- **Low cost:** print out a drawing of an elephant and color it or print a photo.

Flashlights

- **No cost:** ask participants to bring their own flashlights.
- **Low cost:** Amazon sells packs of flashlights as party favors. (search: flashlights 6 pack)

Color Filters

- **No cost:** Cut up a ziploc bag to create 3 plastic sheets. Use markers to color one sheet red, one sheet blue and one sheet green. These won't be as vibrant as the color filters, but they'll do the job.
- **Low cost:** Amazon sells color filters (search: color filters for photography). You can use these as whole sheets or cut them up so more people can participate in the exercise. These packages usually contain a range of colors, so make sure to start with red, green and blue, then experiment with all the other colors.

Facilitator Guide

Be sure to read through the entire *Facilitator Guide* in preparation for your workshop.

Prompts to read to the group are in bold. You can read them verbatim or use them as a guide.

- Instructions to the facilitator are labeled with an arrow. .
- ⌚ Estimated time for the activity is labeled with a clock.

Space Setup

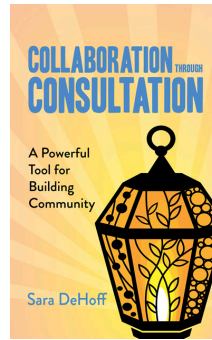
- **Space to role-play** - In the first activity, participants will role-play a short story.
- **Space to play with flashlights** - In the second activity, participants will experiment with light and color.

Next Steps

1. **Consultation Basics** is a series of short workshops that explore the skills of consultation. In this series, the participants take turns leading the sessions. The first session uses the same story used in this workshop, *Midnight Encounter*, but the focus is on building the skill of reading aloud with expression and clarity.
<http://bit.ly/4uTO83U>
2. **Building Thriving Communities** is a discussion module, providing excellent practice in consultation. The group explores the different “wealths” of their community and discusses how to steward them. It’s a great way to choose and implement a service project.
<http://bit.ly/4g4P9CO>

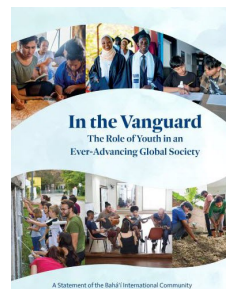
Additional Resources

Learn more about consultation, building thriving communities and the role of youth:



Collaboration Through Consultation: A Powerful Tool for Building Community

OurProsperousWorld.com/Consultation



In the Vanguard: The Role of Youth in an Ever-Advancing Global Society

BIC.org/statements/vanguard-role-youth-ever-advancing-global-society



Local Action Modules for Neighborhoods

OurProsperousWorld.com/Local-Action

If you have questions, ideas, insights, stories about using this workshop, please contact us at: sarad@ourprosperousworld.com. Enjoy!

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Icebreaker (or use your own)

⌚ 5 minutes

Welcome everyone! Today we're going to learn skills for working in groups. But let's warm up a bit first.

1. Stand with your feet shoulder-width apart. Not too close together and not too far apart.
2. Draw yourself up to your full length, as if there's a string pulling up through your spine from the top of your head.
3. Next, open up to your full width: open up your chest, so your shoulders aren't hunched in and not thrown back.
4. Now center in your depth, between front and back. Your back is your history, where you come from. Your front is where you're going. Center yourself between the two.
5. Now pair up with the person next to you and introduce yourselves. Share your name and where you were born. We'll give you 2 minutes and then each person will introduce their partner to the group.

Introduction

⌚ 5 minutes

Today we're going to learn about consultation, a truth-seeking process of group decision-making.

Some years ago, a youth named Emily decided to work with her former elementary school to start a robotics team. One of the first tasks for this group of 5th graders was to come up with a name for their team. They ended up with 2 ideas. They weren't thrilled with either one and the only thing they knew to do was to vote on them.

Emily asked if they wanted to vote or talk it out. The group eagerly chose to talk it out. Each person shared what was important to them in a name and what they liked and/or didn't like about the two choices. By consulting about it, the team eventually came up with a name they *all* liked.

Story: Midnight Encounter

⌚ 10 minutes

- Call for volunteers:
 - Narrator
 - 5 Friends
 - Motorcyclist (choose a girl, if you can)

First we need to talk about headlight safety. Our motorcyclist will be riding on a dark and windy road. What's the most important thing about headlight safety?

- Don't blind the oncoming drivers.
- Point flashlights at objects, not faces.
- Hand out scripts to volunteers. Narrator and 5 Friends stand at the front of the room. Motorcyclist stands at the back, behind the audience.
- Volunteers read/act out the story.
- When the motorcyclist arrives, show everyone the elephant.

Story Debrief

⌚ 5 minutes

- What happened in this story?
- What happened when the motorcyclist arrived?
- What would have happened if the motorcycle hadn't come?
- Every one of these perspectives was valid - the leg really does feel like a tree trunk.
- But every one of these perspectives was also limited. None of these friends could see the whole picture by themselves. It wasn't until the light emerged, the light of truth, that they could actually see what's in front of them.
- This is what consultation is all about: we each have a particular viewpoint - we each see a part of the picture. We're trying get to the light of truth so we can see the whole picture.

Flashlights & Color Filters

⌚ 10 minutes

Now we'll explore the light of truth in another way.

- Call for 3 volunteers.
- Give each one a flashlight and a color filter (red, green or blue).
- Tape a sheet of paper to the wall. (Or put it on the floor/table and everyone gather around.)

When I say RED, shine the red light. When I say BLUE, shine the blue light. When I say GREEN, shine the green light.

These lights represent our viewpoints. Our personalities and experiences color what we see. So one person sees everything as RED, another sees everything as BLUE. This is natural; this is how we were created.

When we share our viewpoints and integrate them all, what do we get? RED & GREEN & BLUE

What happens when one voice dominates, when we insist on our own ideas? RED

What happens when one voice is missing? GREEN & BLUE

It takes all of us to get to the light of truth: RED & GREEN & BLUE

- If you have more than 3 flashlights, divide the participants into groups of 3. Otherwise, everyone takes turns.
- Give each group:
 - 3 flashlights
 - Red, green and blue color filters (plus other colors if you have them)
- Give the groups time to experiment with the color filters and see what happens.

Wrap Up

⌚ 5 minutes

- Ask the groups to put the materials away
- Hold up one flashlight, pointing straight up.

What are we trying to get to?

- The light of truth.

Can one person do it alone?

- No.

How do we find the light of truth?

- Together.
- Share our ideas and let them go.

This was just an introduction to consultation. There's more to learn.

Next we'll go through a series of short workshops that explore the different aspects of consultation so you can build the skills.

When we're ready, we'll explore a tool for consulting about what kinds of service projects we'd like to do together.

MIDNIGHT ENCOUNTER

Narrator: It was a dark and moonless night. So dark you couldn't see your hand in front of your face.

Luckily the five friends knew the route home so well they could walk it in their sleep.

With stories and laughter, they kept each other company as they walked along the lonely, dusty road.

Suddenly, something blocked their path.

Cautiously they stretched out their hands to find out what they were up against.

The first friend grabbed hold of something round and long and flexible and said:

Friend #1: It's a snake!

Narrator: The second friend reached out and felt something large that flapped around and called out:

Friend #2: No, it's a sail!

Narrator: The third friend put out a hand and felt something big, broad and solid and exclaimed:

Friend #3: No, it's a wall!

Narrator: The fourth friend, reaching a little lower, felt something big, thick and round and replied:

Friend #4: No, it's a tree!

Narrator: The fifth friend caught hold of something long, thin and stringy and told the others:

Friend #4: No, it's a rope!

Narrator: Suddenly they heard a motorcycle in the distance — driving slowly and carefully because it was a dark night and a windy road.

Motorcyclist shines flashlight and moves toward "stage".

Narrator: As the motorcycle rounded the last corner, the headlight showed they were looking at...

Facilitator pulls out elephant.