

# A TOUR THROUGH OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY

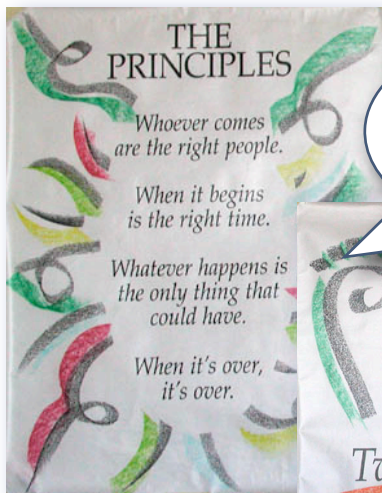
Open Space enables all kinds of people, in any type of organization, to create inspired communities where **ordinary people work together to create extraordinary results with regularity**. Open Space can be scheduled for 3 hours to 3+ days, and can include 5 to 1500 people.

Open Space Technology works best when:

- the work to be done is **complex**
- the people and ideas involved are **diverse**
- the passion for ideas and resolution (and even **potential for conflict**) are high
- and the **time to get it done was yesterday**

Participants create and manage their own agenda around a central theme of strategic importance, such as: *What is the plan of action that all stake-holders in the organization can support and work together to create? OR How can we re-ignite passion in our company and look forward to building a future that engages all?*

“Open Space transcends hierarchy. Participants don’t wait for someone else to make things happen, they tap into their own ideas and take responsibility for them. ”



These are the guiding principles that make Open Space work. The Law of Two Feet says “If you’re not learning or contributing in any conversation you’re in... **MOVE ON!**” Unlike most meetings, it’s rude to stay if you want to be elsewhere or you’re not interested.

minutes. This is where the Law of Two Feet comes in ~**when people talk about what they want to talk about, when they want to talk about it, with others who are as passionate as they are, they will move mountains.**

3. After each session of small group conversations, the **convener of the topic types the summary notes**. At the end of the day all session notes are printed and a copy is handed to every participant. Notes can then be emailed and/or placed on a website.

1. **The commitment to passion and responsibility begins with an invitation.** Based on the overall Invitation topic, participants post any thoughts, ideas, questions or passions as conversation topics that in minutes becomes the entire Open Space agenda.
2. Topics are posted on the wall titled *The Marketplace of Ideas* and everyone checks it out to decide what is of interest to them. **Several topics are convened simultaneously**, each lasting from 1/2 hour to 45

4. At the end of the day, participants gather back in the full circle to **share a few words on what the process brought for them, and where they want to take it from here**. It gives a great sense of how the day went. People are ALWAYS energized and ready to take action.
5. **Participants then re-post new topics that are purely action oriented**—what are you willing to take responsibility for setting into motion.
6. Convener’s Notes are gathered and printed onsite. In a short time, the most important ideas, recommendations, conclusions, questions for further study, and plans for immediate action are documented and given to every participant. This gives you the fastest, most comprehensive report on where your organization is, where it wants to go, and the ways for it to be accomplished by the entire group.