

Seeing through Conflict

We do something very simple, yet effective, here: we produce examples of conflict, act them out on stage, and observe them. This procedure, the *Theater of Learning*, enables us to literally see conflict, share our experience of it, and learn from it. Usually we are so involved in conflict that we see and learn almost nothing. Here, our work together creates the distance that makes seeing and learning possible.

Target Group

Everyone who is involved in conflict and wants to learn from the experience of it, and as a result, improve their relationships with their fellows, including professionals, students, housewives, factory owners, workers, and all others. Six to twelve participants.

Learning from Conflict

In this two-day workshop, we want to find out how we understand conflict, how we are personally involved, and what we are doing in our interactions with others that makes them difficult and unsatisfactory for us.

Our approach in this is to address the underlying needs and concerns we have. These we make visible, first by clarifying what those needs and concerns are, then by acting out scenes exemplifying these. We learn directly from conflict itself, presented before us, from our experience of it, and by discussing this experience.

In this two-day *Theater* session, we will be seeking clarity: what conflict means in concrete, visual terms for us and the others in the group, and what specific changes you want to make as a result in how you interact with people.

Motivator, Coach, and Catalyst



William Parks has been working together with people for over 20 years now, helping them to improve how they communicate. He grew up in Oregon and studied mathematics at North Texas State University. After three years in the U.S. Army, he continued at the University of Heidelberg, studying Germanistik. He has worked as an instructor in adult education and at numerous companies, including Daimler, BASF, and Lufthansa. His published work includes *QuickCheck Amerikanisch* in Klett-Verlag and the monthly *Transatlantic Letter* per email service. After over 30 years in Germany, he is bilingual in English and German, and works with people in both languages.

The Theater of Learning

Seeing through Conflict utilizes the *Theater of Learning*, an experiential learning model designed for groups of six to twelve persons. All activities are held in English, stimulating, and engaging. No acting experience is necessary. This way of working together is unusual in that you, the learners, create your own learning material — that which you present and see. Your concerns become concrete, visible reality, right in front of you. This is a learning experience unlike any other.

An Outline of Our Work

We meet first, discuss your concerns with regard to conflict, and then develop one or two scenarios as examples of these concerns. With my coaching, you present these scenarios together with others in your group. Using *debriefing techniques*, we discuss experiences and observations, directly generating material for the rest of our work. We then work out patterns of interaction, and develop alternatives to your present tactics in dealing with others.

You experiment with these alternatives in roleplays of your own design and commit yourself to concrete changes you want to try out in your actual dealings with others. An organic process of learning and self-development.

Benefits

As a result of our work together, you will experience:

- more self-confidence
- better communication
- stronger relationships
- less friction
- increased effectiveness

when interacting with persons at home or at work.

Contact Me

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