

# Rhizome guide to Stages of Open Space

## Aims of the Open Space

The organisers and people coming need to have an understanding of what they're getting into and the likely outcomes of the event.

## Organisation

Logistics and coordination between the facilitator(s) and the conference or meeting organisers.

## Introduce

The facilitator explains both how the event runs and the principles embodied in the process.

## Co-create the agenda

Participants decide what they want to talk about and when, creating the agenda for the Open Space.

## Conversations

The Open Space goes live and the conversations begin.

## Reports

Each discussion group produces a report outlining who was there, what they talked about and what action they thought they could take to create positive change.

## Real time publicity

Each group's report is posted on a 'news' wall as it is produced, for all to read. Alternatively reports are typed in the 'news room' and uploaded to a website.

## Renewing the agenda

In a longer Open Space new topics for conversation may emerge from previous rounds of discussion. This may necessitate a formal session to create a new agenda for these conversations.

## Goodbyes and final words

A final session to air anything that people think is important.



*An open space agenda using washing lines when no wall space is available*

## After the event

- All delegates get a copy of all the conversation reports, as one larger report.
- A smaller group produces a 'manifesto' (aka your reports for policy makers and the wider field).
- Press launch and other publicity.
- Evaluation of the event for future reference.

Rhizome is a co-operative of experienced facilitators, trainers and mediators. We work with co-ops, and campaigning and community groups across the UK, and with those national organisations that support activism and participation in all its forms.

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