



free-range THINKING™

free-range thinking™ is a monthly journal of best practices, resources and generally useful stuff for public interest communicators who want to reach more people with more impact

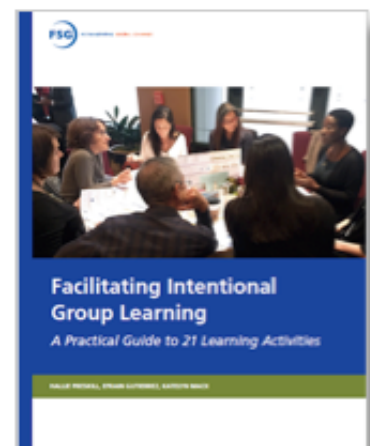


21 Ways to Improve Meetings, Retreats and Conferences

Before I began writing *Why Bad Presentations Happen to Good Causes*, I surveyed 2,501 public interest professionals to find out what makes a presentation a positive experience for them. The number one answer: interaction. When human beings assemble for staff meetings, organizational retreats, or sector-wide conferences, they are not empty vessels quietly waiting to be filled up with information. They want to engage and they want to learn.

If you're responsible for planning such gatherings, the time you devote to ensuring productive interaction will be time well spent, and thanks to [FSG](#) you have an invaluable new resource at your disposal. *Facilitating Intentional Group Learning - A Practical Guide to 21 Learning Activities* is exactly what the title promises: a step-by-step manual for planners of meetings large and small. Co-authored by Hallie Preskill, Efrain Gutierrez and Katelyn Mack, the guide divides learning activities into three categories (Quick Learning, Detailed Learning, and Systems-Thinking Learning) and features a handy chart to help determine which is the right activity for your group.

If you've already visited the website [Liberating Structures](#) or read Sam Kaner's great [book](#), *The Facilitator's Guide to Participatory Decision-Making*, you will recognize a few of these activities, but there's definitely something new for meeting planners at all levels, so I highly recommend downloading a free copy of the [guide](#) today.



Our Tribe is Gathering Next Week! Last Call for frank2018

The fourth annual *frank* conference - the essential gathering for public interest communicators - begins on February 6th, and there is still time to register. This year's conference is designed around the theme of "play" and will explore how game elements are being used to solve problems of the highest order.



Featured speakers include Duane Bray of IDEO, Elizabeth Cushing of Playworks, Eli Pariser of Upworthy, Tina Rosenberg of the Solutions Journalism Network and many others; and Lizz Winstead (legendary co-creator of "The Daily Show" and probably the best conference emcee I've ever seen) returns as ringmaster. Attendance is by invitation only, so to find out more and request an invite, click [here](#) today while there are still seats left.

Upcoming online classes at The Goodman Center

TELL BETTER STORIES

**Storytelling:
Tapping the Power
of Narrative**

March 8, 15, 22 & 29
9am - 10am PT

WEBINAR BETTER

**The Webinar
on Webinars**

March 9
11am - 12pm PT

DESIGN BETTER CAMPAIGNS

**Strategic
Communications:
Cutting Through
the Clutter**

March 19 & 20
11am - 12pm PT

Click on the class title to read more!

About Us

free-range thinking is written by Andy Goodman and edited by Celia Hoffman. To read back issues, download free publications, and to learn more about our work, please visit www.thegoodmancenter.com.

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