



National
School
Reform
Faculty

Harmony
Education
Center

www.nsrharmony.org

Thinking out of the Box

This protocol was adapted from the Iowa Peace Institute.

"You can't depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus." -- Unknown

"We all agree that your theory is crazy, but is it crazy enough?" -- Niels Bohr

Let's ask ourselves the question: "Am I courageous enough to propose to another, who I have differences with, a crazy theory of working together that would bring our collective imaginations into focus?"

While we're at this conference let's consider that "reality testing" may be just another way of stifling imagination. Have the courage to say something in the spirit of bringing the two of you closer together that another might think is crazy. An employee once said to his boss, "I don't want you to leave here. I don't want to break in a new boss. I want to break you in." Had the employee stopped to reality test he might have thought better of saying what he did. As it was, his comment, which came from the heart, broke the tension in the room and set a positive tone for the rest of the session.