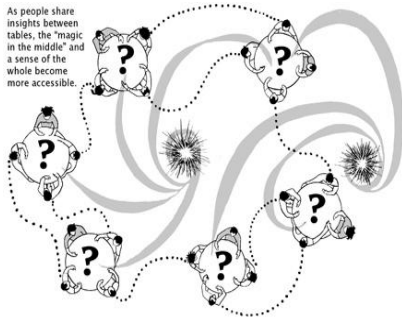


# World Café

World cafes are founded on the assumption that people have the capacity to work together, no matter who they are. The goal of a café is to foster productive relationships, collaborative learning, and collective insight around real-life challenges and key strategic questions through the focused use of dialogue.

## What is a World Café good for?

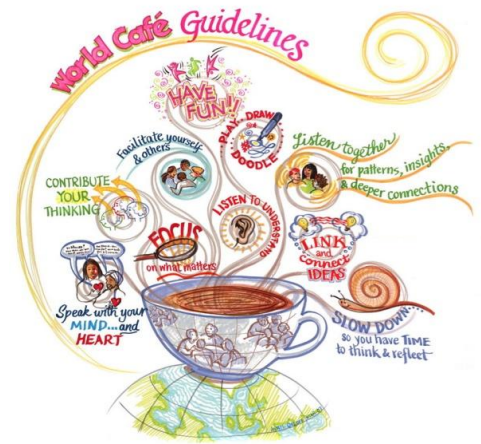


## What happens at a World Café?

World Cafés can be modified to meet a wide variety of needs. Specifics of context, numbers, purpose, location, and other circumstances are factored into each event's unique invitation, design, and question choice, but the following five components comprise the basic model:

- 1) **Setting:** Create a "special" environment, most often modeled after a café, i.e. small round tables covered with a tablecloth, butcher block paper, and colored pens. Ideally there should be four chairs at each table.
- 2) **Welcome and Introduction:** The host begins with a warm welcome and an introduction to the World Café process, setting the context and putting participants at ease.
- 3) **Small Group Rounds:** The process begins with the first of three or more rounds (typically fifteen to twenty minutes long) of conversation for the small group seated around a table. At the end of the round, each member of the group moves to a different new table. They may or may not choose to leave one person as the "table host" for the next round, who welcomes the next group and briefly fills them in on what happened in the previous round.
- 4) **Questions:** Each round is prefaced with a **question** designed for the specific context and desired purpose of the session. The same questions can be used for more than one round, or they can be built upon each other to focus the conversation or guide its direction.
- 5) **Harvest:** After the small groups (and/or in between rounds, as desired) individuals are invited to share insights or other results from their conversations with the rest of the large group.

Video Explanations of World Café: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6m7fpoAacBY&feature=related>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRM1I90SOUw&feature=related>



### Principles of World Café

Create hospitable space

Explore questions that matter

Encourage each person's contribution

Connect diverse people and ideas

Listen together for patterns, insights, and deeper questions

Make collective wisdom visible