

Is "Robert's Rules" Out of Order?

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Distinctions, Paradigms & Maps

- Process
- Perception
- Curiosity
- Understanding
- Conflict or Dispute



Process



Process - Robert's Rules of Order



- Henry Martyn Robert
 - 1837-1923
 - US Army Major (1876) later Brigadier General
- Answer any question of Parliamentary Procedure
- Widely used reference for meeting *procedure*
- *But!*



Perception

Perception

Each of us tends to think we see things as they are, that we are objective. However, we see the world not as **IT IS**, but as **WE ARE** - or as we are conditioned to see it.

Stephen R. Covey.
The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, 1989.

Perception

- The way we see the problem is the problem



Perception – A Shared Reality?



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Perception – The Barbarian

“Forgive him, ... for he is a barbarian, and thinks that the customs of his tribe and island are the laws of nature.”

Caesar, in Caesar and Cleopatra, act 2. Speaking of Britannus, his secretary, “an islander from the western end of the world, a day’s voyage from Gaul.”

... George Bernard Shaw (1856–1950), Anglo-Irish playwright, critic.



Perception – An Epiphany

- Epiphany: “an experience of sudden and striking realization.”

“How I saw the world was different than how others saw it!”

- An Interesting Global Truth:
“We all see the world in our own individual way.”




Perception – We Have Choice!

- “Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms — to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.”

... Viktor E. Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*





Curiosity




Curiosity – Positions & Interests

- Positions
 - Solution focussed
 - I want {you} to ...
 - We/You should ...
 - One-Sided
 - Rigid
- Interests
 - Important to satisfy
 - Beliefs, values, preferences ...
 - Desires, aims, motives ...
 - Possibly Common-Ground
 - Flexible Priorities



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
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Curiosity – Shut up and Listen!

**If you are Talking,
You are Losing!**

Ask Questions.

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Curiosity – The “Good” Questions

- Open Questions
 - What...; How...; Where...; When...
 - Provides Information



Curiosity – The “Bad” Questions

- Open Questions
 - What...; How...; Where...; When...
 - Provide Information
- Closed Questions
 - Do you...; Will you...; Is...
 - Only ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ answers



Curiosity – The “Ugly” Question

- Open Questions
 - What...; How...; Where...; When...
 - Provide Information
- Closed Questions
 - Do you...; Will you...; Is...
 - Only 'Yes' or 'No' answers
- Why Questions
 - Justification, defensive
 - Never ask “why ...” questions!!!



Understanding



Understanding

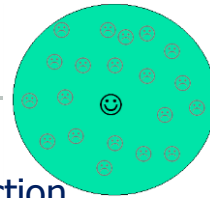
- Use the Present to understand the Past
- Use this understanding (in the present) to create the Future
- The Future is separated from the Past by our **current understanding**, otherwise we doom the future by our past mistakes.



Dispute or Conflict



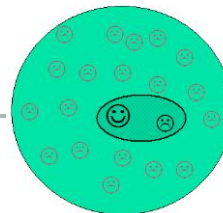
Conflict



- ... **process** of expressing dissatisfaction
- ... ongoing, indirect, intangible, internal
- ... if only people would just follow the guidelines/rules
- ... nice to have a solution, but not a requirement



Dispute



- ... **product** of unresolved conflict
- ... specific identifiable people
- ... disagreement about the solution
- ... important to have a solution



Conflict or Dispute?

- Who is involved?
- How many are involved?
- What is the problem (specific or general)?
- How can they create a solution?
 - For themselves? ... For others?
- Are they part of the solution?
- Whose behaviour needs changing?
- Who will monitor the change?



Robert's Rules of Order - Revisited

- Committee of the Whole (sec 51)
 - *During the time that a meeting is "in committee of the whole" ...*
 - *Technically not "the assembly"*
 - *Chairman may be other than presiding officer*
 - *Report of committee acts as recommendations*
- *Alternate Forms*
 - *Quasi Committee of the Whole*
 - *Informal Consideration*



Thank You

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