

BLUEPRINT CONFERENCE

Use the Blueprint Reflection questions to reflect on a conflict from both perspectives, then hold a Blueprint Conference to work to restore the relationship.

STEP 1: THE PRE-CONFERENCE



Decide to hold a conference.

One or more participants elect to hold a conference. This may be suggested by a teacher, colleague, or friend who volunteers to facilitate. Otherwise, the participants can select a trusted facilitator.



Is a conference the best solution?

Ensure that parties in conflict are already in an established community, the conflict is not assault or violence, an appropriate amount of time has passed, and both parties are on board.



Hold pre-conferences.

Meet with each party separately to complete a Blueprint Reflection, which will allow them to prepare for the conference. The facilitator can also determine if both parties are ready to participate.



Plan the logistics.

Choose a location and time that works for everyone for the conference to take place. Ensure the location is a neutral, private space and allow enough time for each participant to share their feelings.

STEP 2: THE BLUEPRINT CONFERENCE



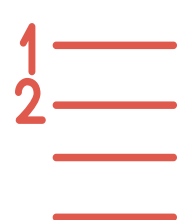
Introduce the conference.

Arrange chairs so that all participants are facing inward and can see each other. Start the conference by reiterating the intention of the process, and that the goal is to repair the relationship.



Choose a talking piece to use.

Choose an object with significance that can be passed around to indicate the speaker. Ensure that only the person holding the talking piece speaks at one time, then passes it along.



Facilitate the conference.

Ask one person to begin. If there was a clear victim or harmed party in the conflict, it may be empowering to start with this person. Then, ask participants to answer each of the Blueprint questions in order.



Be an emotion scientist.

Pay close attention to the emotion cues of all parties. Watch, observe, and listen carefully for shifts. If you become activated by the participants, take a Meta-Moment or use a regulatory strategy.



Ensure each party speaks for one's self.

Ensure that everyone is answering questions only for themselves, rather than assigning feelings to another. If participants are stuck in an unpleasant quadrant, ask them if they'd like to take a break and reconvene.



Prompt participants to stay on task.

Ask follow-up questions encouraging participants to address the Blueprint Reflection questions. At the end of the conference, help to facilitate plans for moving forward and agreeing upon solutions.

STEP 3: POST-CONFERENCE



Follow up with participants about the commitments they have made.

Based on the timeline agreed upon by participants, check in with each party separately. Ask them how they are feeling about the relationship since the conference and if there have been steps toward repair.