

Futures Wheel

Information Processing: Exploring and Discovering

PROCESS

- Draw a wheel on a chart.
- Write the name of the innovation or idea that the group will be working with in the center of the wheel.
- Work outward from the center to the first layer of circles.
- Identify two positive consequences and two negative consequences. Have the positive and negative be as different as possible.
- Continue in this manner to the second layer, then the third and fourth.
- Dialogue about the findings. How might this information influence the perceptions and decisions of a planning team?

ALTERNATIVES

- Through this process, a need for more information might surface. Determine what is needed and how to gather it.

cont.

- Two small groups could work on the same decision, then share results to gain greater perspective.

TIPS

- These are not predictions. They are possible consequences.
- An analysis of the data may lead a group to abandon the idea.
- An analysis of the data can inform a group of ways of implementing the idea that would avoid some negatives.
- Use the information to learn what must be communicated to whom and in what ways.