



# 2010 SOUTHWEST CLUSTER CONFERENCE

MARCH 2-4, 2010

DALLAS, TEXAS

## Maintaining Neutrality

- Choose a topic about which you have a strong “pro” or “con” feeling. Try to choose something the group doesn’t know about you.
- Appoint a timekeeper.
- Announce to the group what your topic is. The goal is to show no bias towards or against the topic as you present it.
- You will then lead your table group in a 3-minute brainstorm of the topic you have chosen. Your objective is to build on a flipchart a list of “pros” and “cons” from the group. Again, your goal is to reveal no opinion or bias.
- After the time has expired, ask each group member to guess whether you feel “pro” or “con” on the issue.
- Ask group members for feedback about what you did that led them to guess one way or another. Use their feedback to improve your skills in maintaining neutrality.

**Possible Topics:** country living, city living, telecommuting, beach vacation, mountain vacation, dining at home, dining out.



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## Achieving Consensus

- Choose a topic which has 3-5 possible options.
- Appoint a timekeeper.
- Introduce your table to the topic they will be deciding.
- You will then lead your table through the Paired Comparison activity. The goal of this activity is to gain consensus among the group on one of the options you present to them.
- After you have led your table through the activity, test for consensus by asking the 3 main questions of consensus testing.
- Possible Topics:
  - Dinner Choice: gumbo, bar-b-que, enchiladas, chicken casserole
  - Vacation Spots: New York City, Napa Valley, Key West, Denver
  - Hobbies: bicycle riding, scrapbooking, gardening, video gaming