



# Idea Workshop

## BEST PRACTICES

# THE WORKSHOP SOCIAL CONTRACT

This model is meant to help develop, refine and strengthen ideas in a spirit of rigorous generosity.

This is the time for understanding and improvement. This is the space for honest feedback targeted at an idea, not an individual.

Openmindedness, impartiality and receptiveness are all key to both giving and receiving feedback.

Knowledge construction, outcome evaluation, continual reflection and collective improvement are all more important than coming up with a perfect solution.

## THE WORKSHOP MODEL ...

*... offers us a chance to make changes and improvements.*

*... allows us to catch a glimpse of how other people see our work.*

*... offers us a chance to see how other people work and think.*

*... provides us with a diverse collection of feedback and contributions.*

## IT IS NOT ...

*... an exam.*

*... a hearing.*

*... a debate.*

*... a defense.*

An abstract graphic consisting of various white circles and dots of different sizes scattered across the upper half of a solid pink background. Some circles are solid, while others are outlines. There are also small clusters of dots.

**FOR THOSE  
PROVIDING  
FEEDBACK**

- 1 **LEAD WITH QUESTIONS.**
- 2 **DON'T ASSUME.**
- 3 **TALK ABOUT STRENGTHS.**
- 4 **CONSIDER AUDIENCE.**
- 5 **REMEMBER THE GOAL.**

# LEAD WITH QUESTIONS.

*Find out what you don't know by asking questions to give yourself the information you need to give actionable feedback.*

# DON'T ASSUME.

*If something isn't adding up for you, always ask before you start to make judgements based on the merits of the presentation instead of the idea itself.*

# TALK ABOUT STRENGTHS.

*Just because this is a 'critique' model does not mean we should focus on weaknesses. What is working? When we talk about positives in the idea we have the opportunity to develop and strengthen the strategy. Don't take the positives for granted.*



# CONSIDER AUDIENCE.

*Who is this for? Does the project fit a need? From whose 'angle' is this coming from? Is this the most appropriate for the chosen audience? Is there a better fit? What is it and why?*

# REMEMBER THE GOAL.

*What is the purpose of the project? Is everything in line with supporting this purpose?*



**FOR THOSE  
RECEIVING  
FEEDBACK**

**1**

**ASK FOR FEEDBACK.**

**2**

**MANAGE EXPECTATIONS.**

**3**

**HAVE A CLEAR GOAL.**

# ASK FOR FEEDBACK.

*Asking for feedback can strengthen your work, so when you ask for it, make sure you're listening. If you don't really want the feedback, you will likely enter into a non-productive conversation. Make sure everyone is on the same page with the process.*

# MANAGE EXPECTATIONS.

*Know that you are intentionally entering a space where you will be receiving feedback on your ideas. This is not the time to look for validation. Continual reflection and a desire for improvement should be what motivate participation, not praise.*

# HAVE A CLEAR GOAL.

*This will allow your audience to ask better questions and provide a framework for their responses.*



**via...**

**VOICES IN ACTION**

