Eleven Ways to Use Visual Cards
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GroupCoachingEssentials.com | Conversation Sparker™.com | Potentials Realized

Visual cards provide a valuable tool to engage conversation at a workshop, retreat, team meeting or coaching conversation. Team Leaders, facilitators, trainers and coaches will want to explore some of these options:

- **Visual Explorer from Center for Creative Leadership**:
  http://solutions.ccl.org/Visual_Explorer_Facilitator%27s_Letter-size_Set
- **Points of View - The Coaching Game**: http://www.thecoachinggame.com
- **Conversation Sparker Cards™:** ConversationSparker.com

1. Select a Card

The facilitator/leader, coach or trainer will lay out the cards on a large table or in an area where all the cards can be seen by participants. It can be useful to lay them out on a freestanding table so people can move around it and see the photos from different perspectives. *You may want to include cards with photos or also include the cards with questions.*

Give each person a few minutes to select the card. Provide individuals with a few minutes to take notes on their reflections on these questions about their cards:

General questions to be asking:

- What's significant about this card?
- What's in focus?
- What's dominant?
- What's in the background?
- What's missing?

2. Create a Vision:

For individuals - Have individuals select a photo which represents their vision (for their work, leadership, business, career etc). Give them time during the session to make notes on it, dialogue around it or have them journal their ideas before your next conversation point.

For a team - Have a team create their own story line using the photos included in the deck. What are significant milestones in the past and/or future? Team members can also create their own drawings of their vision using blank index cards.

3. Conversation Sparking Questions

The main Conversation Sparker Card deck comes with 22 questions , some with photos, some plain. You can use these questions in several ways:

1. Have each person pick a card for individual reflection

2. Team leaders can select a card for the team to be in dialogue around that week at their staff meeting

3. Each team member can select a card which they want to spark conversation in the team around.

4. Creating Connection:

At the start of the program have individuals select the card which represents what they uniquely bring to the group. Have them introduce themselves to the larger group sharing the card they selected and providing their story behind it.

5. What's Possible?

If you could make a change right now and follow your dream, what would be possible? Select the card which represents what's possible! Have each group member select their own photo and share their story. What would it take to make this happen?

6. Celebratory Closure

The old adage says "All good things must come to an end". Our group and team members remember the start and tend of things. As part of your closure activities, get people to select the card which represents what they are leaving the program with. Alternatively, you can have them select a Question card which they want to carry forward.

7. **Team Storyboard -** If you are working with a team have the team members come up with a storyline of their past or future journey. Provide them with

8. **Metaphor** - Pictures can be used as visual metaphors. Have each group member/team member select the photo which represents the metaphor of the journey they are on, professionally or personally. For example, the spokes on the wheel may represent the different phases

9. **What makes you unique?** Select the card which represents what you uniquely bring to this group?

10. **Polar Opposite** - Select two cards which represent the polar opposites of the issue you are exploring.

11. **Values** - Have group members select the cards which represent the values they embrace as a professional.