



Facilitator's Guide: Activity 2 Feature of the Future

Usage

This exercise helps the Task Force members imagine what the future might look like, based on the work you have already completed. You may choose to do this activity, or the Affinity Grouping exercise, with the entire Task Force, or have half the Task Force do each of these exercises simultaneously.

Goals and Outcomes

1. Task Force members will reflect on the ideas that have been generated from the work they have done along your journey.
2. Task Force members will project some of these ideas into the future, describing how you might re-imagine children's Jewish education in your congregation.

Time Required

45 minutes

Preparation

Each person should have read through the previously-distributed list of vision phrases and the Feature of the Future handout.

Materials

Each group needs paper and pencil, or a laptop for writing, if that is easier.

Facilitation

1. Start this exercise with the following instruction:

Today is (a date six years from today). Six years have passed since The RE-IMAGINE Project Task Force drafted a vision of an alternative model of children's Jewish education in our congregation and took a first bold step toward realizing that vision. Each year since then, a group has met to assess the extent to which the first bold step is aligned with and moving us toward our vision. They have identified the successes achieved and challenges encountered and launched new experiments (both refinements and additional bold steps) based on their findings. It is clear that today, Jewish learning in our congregation is very different from what it was back when your congregation began its involvement with The RE-IMAGINE Project.

Your congregation is being featured in your movement's national magazine because of the innovations you have made in Jewish education.. The article will be titled: "Jewish Education RE-IMAGINED." Each person on your committee has been asked to write a paragraph for this article.

2. Everyone should have already read through the list of phrases that the Vision Sub-team produced. In pairs or small groups, take a few minutes to share with one another the key ideas that emerged from those exercises and influenced the work that has taken place over the past six years. This discussion will enable you to "recall" what has been "RE-IMAGINED" over the past six years.
3. Reconvene as a large group. Select the aspects of your program you want to highlight and how they have grown and changed since your congregation began re-imagining six years ago. Keep in mind the title of the article when considering paragraph headings. How is the experience for children and adults different from what it was six years ago? Why? What is happening to make that difference? What are people doing, feeling, and knowing?
4. Assign each person a paragraph heading. Direct everyone to write without hesitation.

This is a time to let your pen show how your congregation has been dreaming over the past six years. Your pen is not paying attention to concerns or hurdles. It is focusing on how your congregation has fulfilled the deepest dreams and wishes of the people who worked on The RE-IMAGINE Project Task Force six years ago. Highlight for the readers of the magazine all that your congregation has accomplished.

5. When everyone has finished writing, share your paragraphs. What common ideas and phrases emerge?

Record-Keeping

Share these paragraphs with the Vision Sub-team.