

# Appendix B

## Ground Rules

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The following ground rules were presented in Chapter 3 and Chapter 4. You can use the following ground rules as an advanced organizer for the topics discussed in these chapter or as a quick refresher to help support your and others' possibility thinking (Chapter 3) and pruning of possibilities (Chapter 4).



## Ground Rules for Engaging in Possibility Thinking

You can use (or modify) the following ground rules, introduced in Chapter 3, when engaging in possibility thinking.

- We agree to use the prefix “What if . . . ” when offering suggestions or responding to the suggestions of others.
- We agree to first write out our ideas (individually) and then share them with each other no matter how unusual or unlikely they might seem.
- We agree to read and carefully consider all ideas, insights, and perspectives being shared, again no matter how unusual, unlikely, or disconnected they seem.
- We agree to listen to and build on each other’s ideas and speculations (e.g., “yes, and . . . ”)—avoiding reactions that may short-circuit the development and exploration of ideas (e.g., “yeah, but . . . ”).
- We agree to hold our ideas lightly and be willing to set them down to explore alternative ideas and pick them up again if we can build on them.

## Ground Rules for Pruning Possibilities

You can use (or modify) the following ground rules, introduced in Chapter 4, whenever you are attempting to prune possibilities with a group.

- We agree to focus our critiques on ideas, not people.
- We agree to take the time necessary to evaluate each possibility generated (no matter how unusual or impractical it may seem).
- We agree to remain open to new possibilities when providing critiques (including prefacing our critiques with “What if?” to signal that our evaluative comments are one of many possible suggestions).
- We agree to provide one or two deep, specific, and useful critiques of each possibility (to ensure that each idea is evaluated and to avoid the “piling on” of critiques).
- We agree to try to improve each possibility (even if we may eventually abandon it).
- We agree to identify initial steps and potential pitfalls so that we can increase the likelihood of successful implementation.
- We agree that we can, at any time in the evaluative process, return to generating new possibilities and alternatives.