

**No Better Time Conference**  
**Reframing and Reclaiming Democracy**  
**July, 2009**

**Original Questions**

1. Is there a need for a common term/taxonomy/language for us to be successful?  
OR  
Is there a need for an exchange understanding of each other's language (disciplines and Public?)  
If Yes
2. Mapping the field/terminology: what terms are being used.
3. Which are the most compelling terms?
4. How do you include the community?
5. What next? Specific action steps

**Additional Opening Questions - What question do we need to answer today?**

What is the table that we are talking about? DD/civic engagement, etc. (What are we talking about?)

How do we name it ~ inside the box" and to the broader community/~ movement"

What language do we use to make it accessible to the grassroots on the ground? (Plain English /Spanish etc. – outside the box)

What is the set of tools we are using – correct fit/practical tools.

There needs to be a clear key distinction between methods. Not just labels but clear definitions.

**THE TABLE (key components of "deliberative democracy")**

- Community – relationships
- Problem/Challenge/Progress/Growth/Solution
- Assets – vital part of community honoring
- Connecting people to each other, resources
- People setting the agenda  
Inclusive-diversity-early organizing
- Trust
- Visioning
- Autonomy
- Responsibility
- Ownership
- "Education" "Framing"/"Thanks"/"concentration"
- "Listening" – interviews
- Transparency
- Leadership roles

## **Other key points**

Governments often just give lip Service on the collaboration check box

We need to have clear packaging of something worth selling

How do we bring people to expect/want community?

### **“Deliberative Democracy/Citizen Engagement”**

#### Outside the box ~

“Let’s talk to each other”

“Hit me up”

“Thank, talk and work together”

*The key for naming in the community is to use whatever works in your community. Often this is a name developed by the community*

#### Inside box ~

We need to develop a “Taxonomy for the tools” – to build a Comparison of names

Clearly identify the Labels on the boxes

Also develop an Inclusive name for the field

The integrity of the process demands a cleaner language.

### **“Final Reflections”**

We need to develop a clear process on how to resolve the taxonomy issue

NLC – survey on “democratic governance” to “civic participation”. The latter was preferred.

Democratic co-existence and cooperation

Metamorphosis of a movement

Do it interdisciplinary not in a bubble