

Activity 3: Right Angle Thinking and Milling to Music

- Awareness
- Analysis
- Planning
- Revisiting

The following professional learning activity can be used with groups as a springboard for discussion related to their learning focus. Participants use the Right Angle Thinking organizer (Ballanca 1990) to identify key facts or ideas. Their responses may include thoughts, feelings, predictions, or related ideas. Milling to Music (Paterson and Rolheiser 2008) is a social process that facilitates discussion and the sharing of ideas.

Preparation

- Copy the Right Angle Thinking organizer, making one for each participant.
- Have music available.

Step 1

Ask participants to use the graphic organizer to note key ideas they have identified, or recall, about the parameter and then record personal reactions to those ideas in the space provided. **(3 minutes)**

Step 2

Use Milling to Music to facilitate discussion: Ask everyone to stand, holding their organizers, and to move around the room while the music is playing.

When participants are all up and moving, stop the music. Ask participants to partner up and to take turns sharing one key idea and their reaction to it. **(3 minutes)**

Start the music and ask participants to move around the room again. Repeat this sharing process two or three times; then, ask participants to return to their seats.

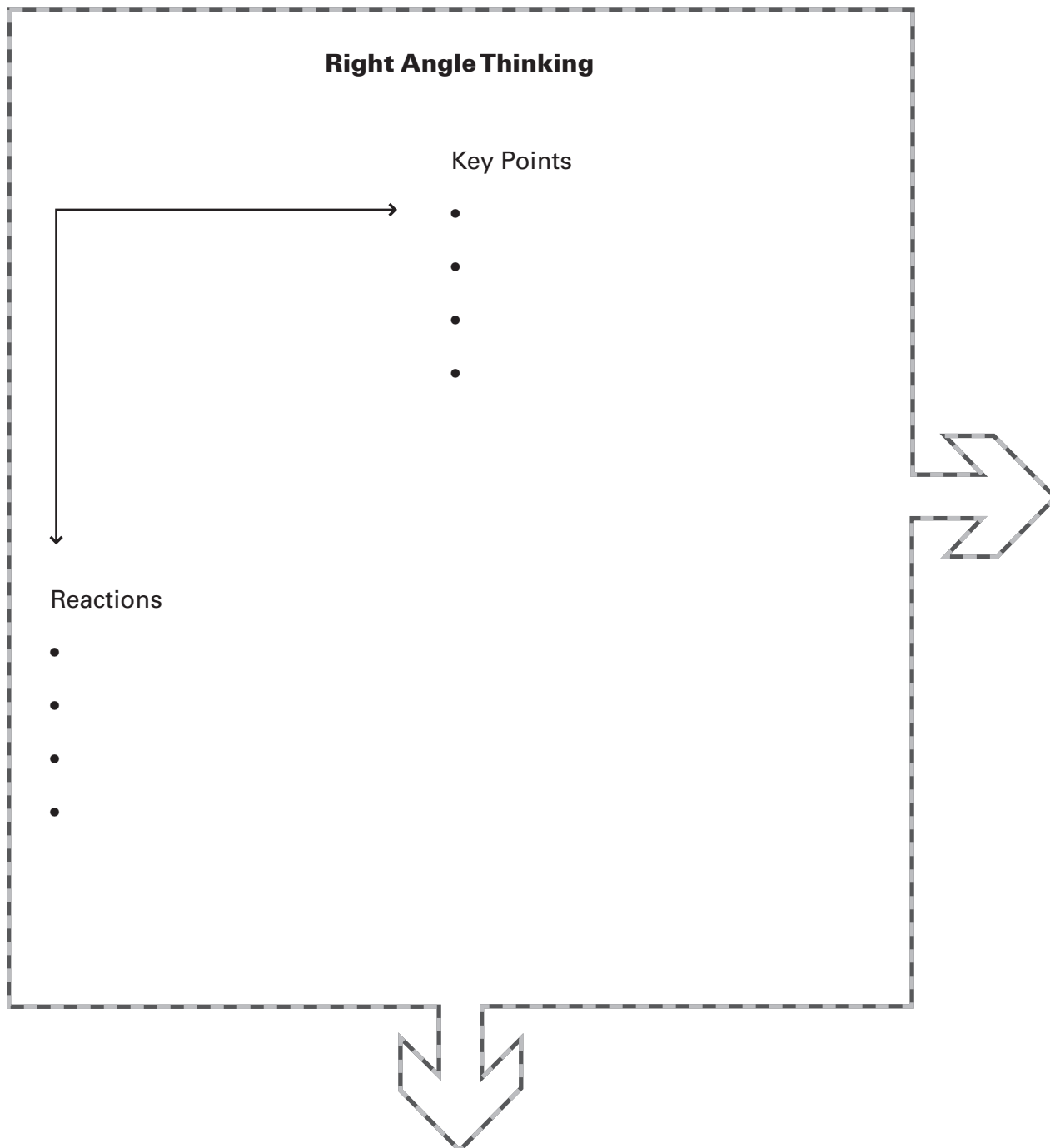
Step 3

Debrief Step 2 with the larger group by asking for volunteers who are willing to share either their own thinking or the thinking of one of their Milling to Music partners.

Generate key ideas and reactions related to the parameter in focus.

Facilitators may want to record ideas from volunteers at the sharing stage. The facilitator or a volunteer could note ideas electronically or on chart paper. Participants could be asked to hand in their Right Angle Thinking graphic organizers. Collectively, these organizers provide valuable data to consider when planning future professional learning opportunities.

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Right Angle Thinking adapted with permission from Bellanca, James. *A Guide to Graphic Organizers: Helping Students Organize and Process Content for Deeper Learning*, Second Edition, p. 168. Thousand Oaks, CA: 2007.