

rites of change handout

Putting Light on Rituals: The Rituals of Meetings

Goal: Learn to use rituals for business settings by applying the “power of image” from metaphor and symbol.

Table Décor: This is usually something attractive or provocative that stimulates association in people’s mind but does not have to be obvious. However, the meeting conveyor will select the objects for a specific intention or to follow a theme. Today’s centerpieces are made up of a lighthouse to represent the element of air because of its height. The candle is fire, the rocks represent earth, and the water speaks for itself.

Following is a list of the 4 directions and the element associated with that direction. This can be used as a touchstone for metaphor and symbol to stimulate ideas for creating meeting rituals. The four directions may have different associations depending on the tradition that one draws from. The associations with these directions follow the pattern of the sun and have Celtic roots.

EAST

Element is Air Season is Spring Sunrise
Symbols: sword, pen, feather, something tall, flag, wand, balloon, bird
Qualities: beginnings, lightness, ideas, thoughts, poetry, birds eye view, breath, clouds, intuition
Business: perspective, mental clarity, planning, strategic thinking, decisiveness, and proposals

SOUTH

Element is Fire Season is Summer Mid-day Sun
Symbols: fire, sun, light, bright color, lizard
Qualities: passion, love, heat, sparks, attraction, wildness, strength, and willfulness
Business: implementation, inspiration, energy, resource, motivation, growth

WEST

Element is Water Season is Fall Sunset
Symbols: water in all its forms, cups, fish, boat
Qualities: fluid, dreamy states, poetic romantic, watery, slippery, flowing movements, feelings, letting go, and endings
Business: reflection, analyze data, summaries, transitioning, closure, endings, year-end reports, and mergers

NORTH

Element is Earth Season is Winter Darkness
Symbols: discs, coins, rocks, body, wood, plants, and mammals
Qualities: earthy, body, spiritual, transactions, worldly, wealth, resources, beauty
Business: transactions, creating, strength, unrealized potential and opportunity, innovation, stability, fiscal responsibility