

Natural Planning Model

1. Purpose/Guiding Principles

- Why is this being done? What would “on purpose” really mean?
- What are the key standards to hold in making decisions and acting on this project? What rules do we play by?
- The purpose and principles are the guiding criteria for making decisions on the project.

2. Mission/Vision/Goal/Successful Outcome

- What would it be like if it were totally successful? How would I know?
- What would that success look or feel like for each of the parties with an interest?

3. Brainstorming

- What are all the things that occur to me about this? What is the current reality? What do I know? What do I not know? What ought I consider? What haven't I considered? Etc.
(See Project Planning Trigger List.)
- Be complete, open, non-judgmental, and resist critical analysis.
- View from all sides.

4. Organizing

- Identify components (sub-projects), sequences, and/or priorities.
- What needs to happen to make the whole thing happen?
- Create outlines, bulleted lists, or organizing charts, as needed for review and control.

5. Next Actions

- Determine next actions on current independent components. (What should be done next, and who will do it?)
- If more planning is required, determine the next action to get that to happen.

Shift the level of focus on the project as follows if needed:
If your project needs more clarity, raise the level of your focus.
If your project needs more to be happening, lower the level of your focus.

How much planning is required?
If the project is off your mind, planning is sufficient.
If it's still on your mind, then more is needed.