

LVT THINKING IN COMBINATIONS

Exercise at Best Practice with LVT event, 3 December 2008

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There are five distinct thinking tasks built into LVT. These are:

1. Articulation. Condensing into discrete statements the material of texts and thoughts, or making MMs (molecules of meaning). These should be clear, precise and distinct.
2. Combination. Making connections between MMs, displayed by grouping sub-sets of the MMs. This is guided by a 'feel' for what goes together, but can be much more: we can look for not only MMs that *agree* with each other but also for those that *enhance* each other.
3. Expression. The 'combinating' of MMs can lead us into 'better' ideas, whatever 'better' might mean to us. Expressing such *emergent* ideas is a different task.
4. Composition. The expressions are linked together to form a whole. It is not only the summation of what has gone before but a special way of laying out the new expressions. Instead of grouping these MMs together (into a bigger 'blob') we 'spread' them out into a circle or ring. This (a) opens a space between them (b) arranges them symmetrically and (c) tells a story.
5. Generation. Articulating what we see in the 'spaces between' the MMs in the circle. This tends to bifurcate between (a) becoming more abstract and (b) becoming more concrete.

The exercise focused on task 2 though involved also tasks 1, 3 and 4. In the event there was insufficient time and preparation for task 4 and I have shown some further working for people to get the idea.

The essence of the exercise I call 'functional democracy' in that it was designed to ensure that everyone had completely equal roles and functions. This allows for a kind of 'impersonal' culture that nevertheless makes use of the interesting diversity between people.

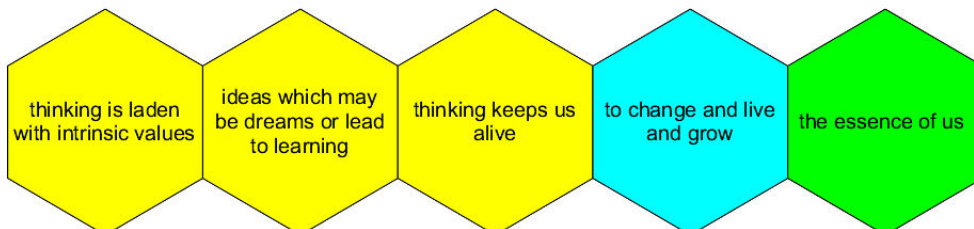
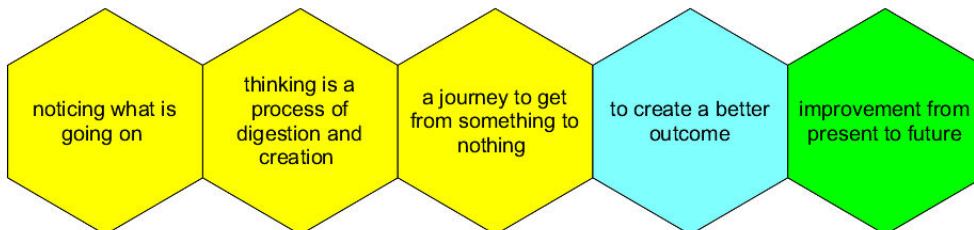
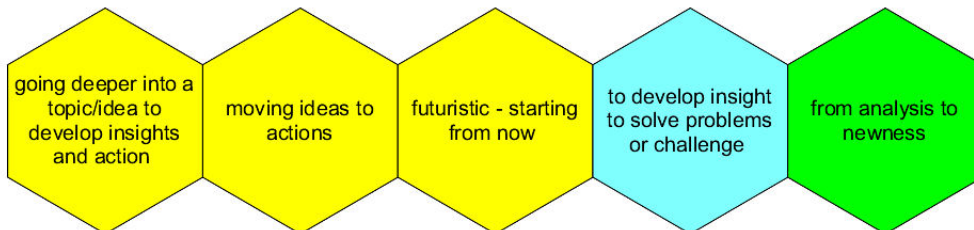
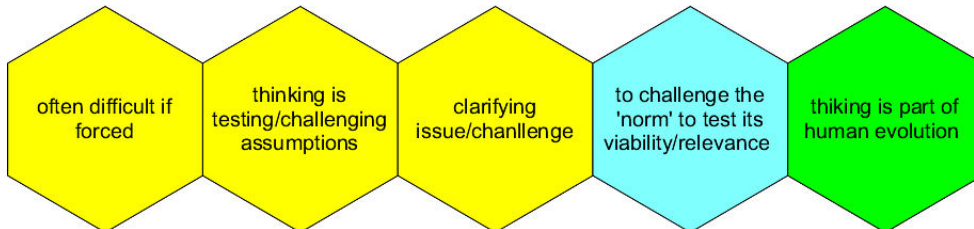
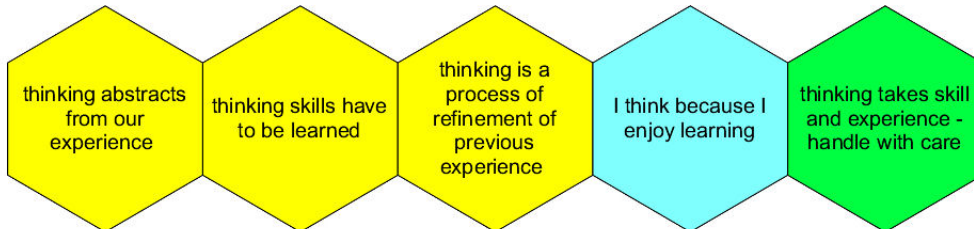
In what follows, I show the work of participants and you may be interested in reflecting further on the content.

1. GROUP A

What

Why

Comment

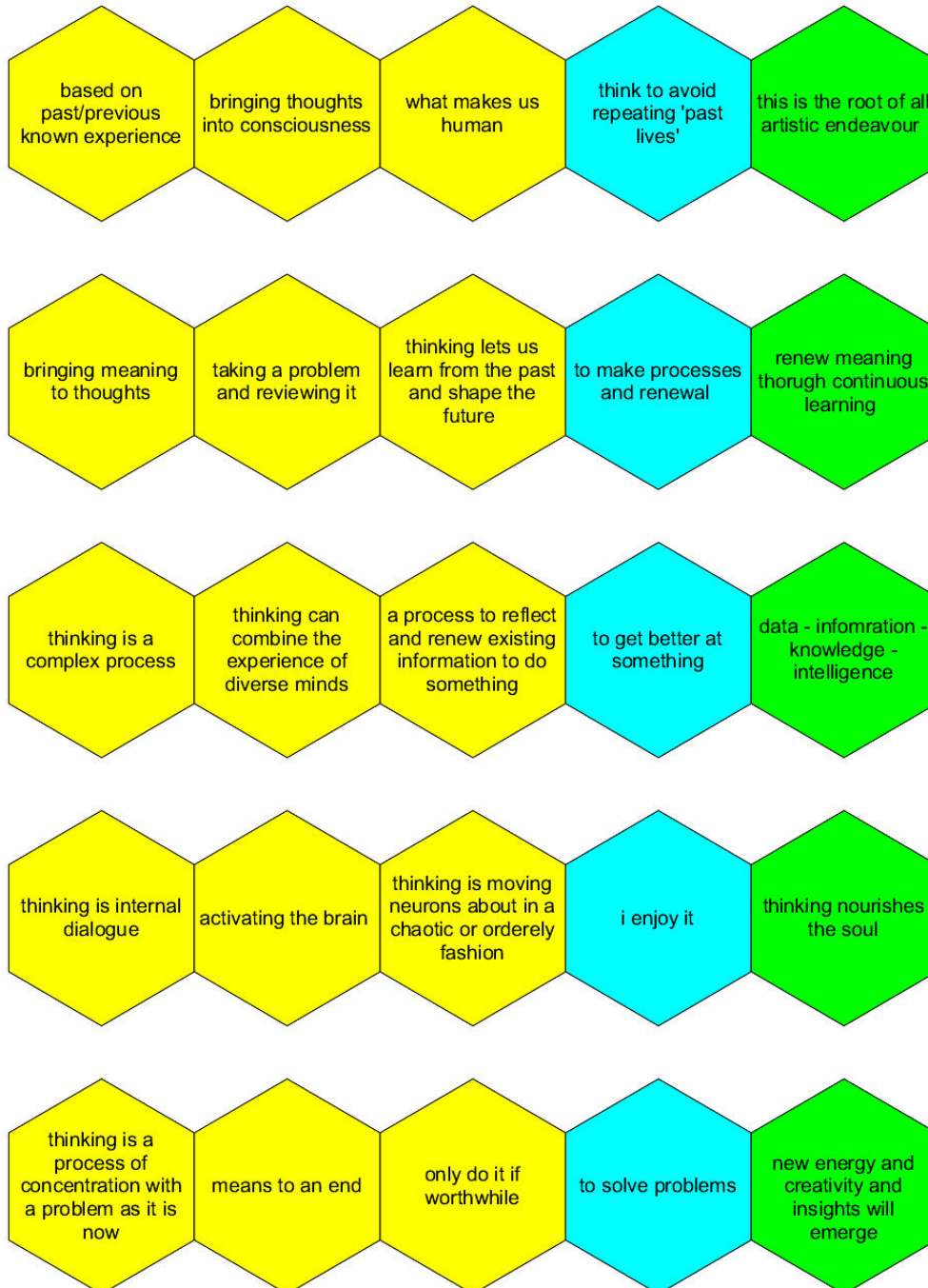


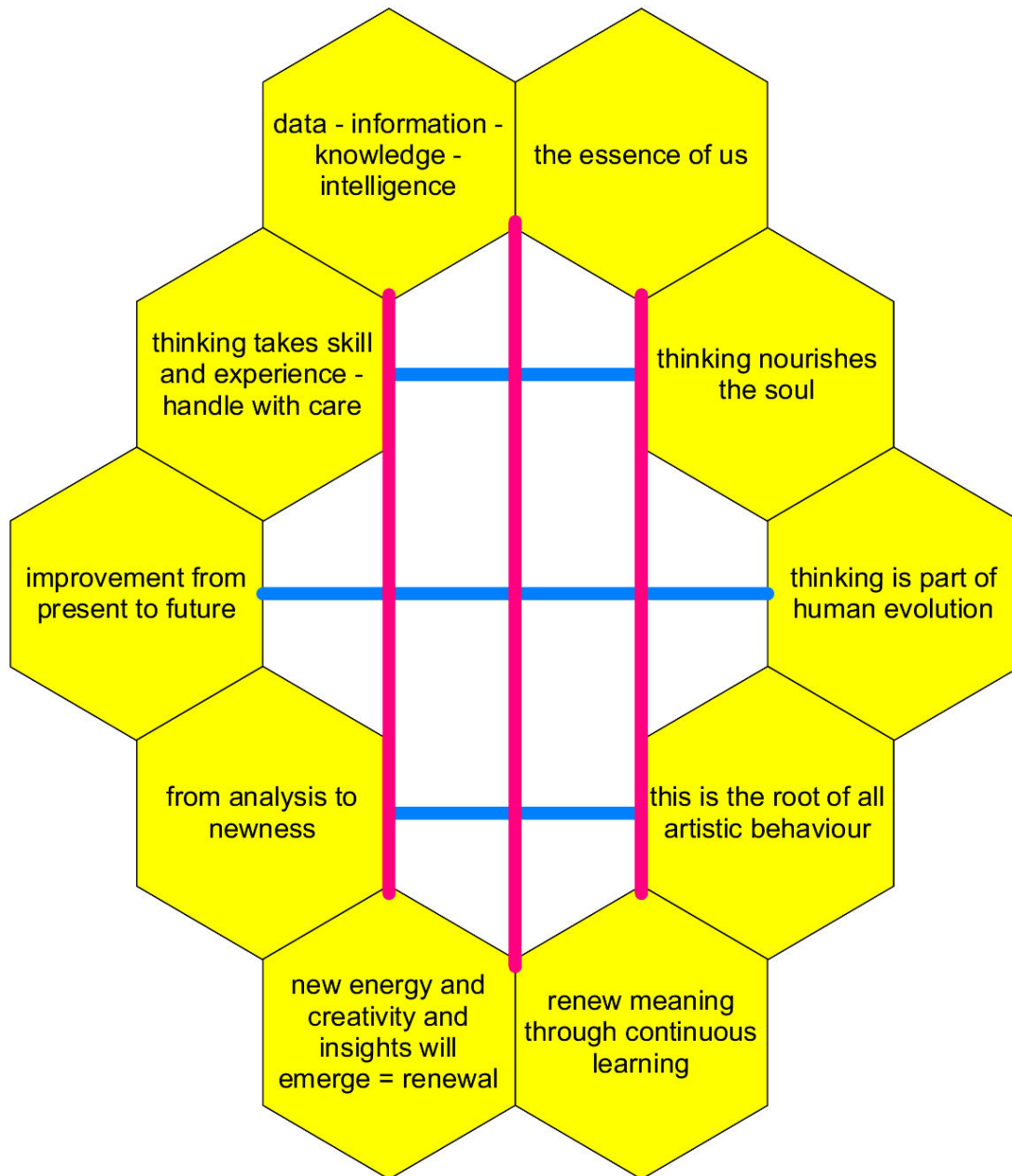
GROUP B

What

Why

Comment





At the stage of **Integration** we see emerge a *culture* or worldview that expresses the values of the participants. I've arranged the final pieces in as symmetrical way I can to enable people to reflect on their work. The red and blue lines indicate how we might do this.

I advise that you try to visualise *yourself* situated in these lines. Can you see any immediate task that you have a new light? What might turn philosophy into making a difference to what you do?