

# DEAD ON!! A Game to Promote Critical Thinking

**Instructions:** The point of this game is to be sure that you give key parts of thinking the time and attention they require, therefore promoting thinking that's more likely to be "dead on". Get 6 balls and put the letters **D, E, A, D, O, N**, on each one with indelible ink. Start with the "**D**" ball, and toss it to someone in the group. Ask the group to focus on answering the questions listed under "**D**" below. Once you have exhausted thoughts on the "**D**" ball, do the same for each of the remaining balls. Be sure to stay focused on the current ball. For example, if someone expresses feelings rather than facts with the first ball, point out that the rules are that emotions are addressed when the "**E**" ball is up for discussion.

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## **D = Data**

- What data (facts) do you have?
  - What other data do you need?
  - What assumptions have you made and what data might validate or negate them?
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## **E = Emotions**

- What emotions (gut reactions) are there (your own, others')?
  - What's your intuition telling you, and what data might validate or negate it?
  - How are values affecting thinking (yours, others)?
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## **A = Advantages**

- What's the vision, benefit(s), and most important desired outcome(s)?
  - What are the specific advantages to others (benefits/outcomes)?
  - What are the specific advantages to you (benefits/outcomes)?
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## **D = Disadvantages**

- What could go wrong (what are the risks)?
  - What are the specific inconveniences/risks for others?
  - What are the specific inconveniences/risks for you?
  - What problems or issues must be addressed to get results?
  - How much work will it take and do you have the necessary resources?
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## **O = Out of the box**

- Go out of the box---think of creative approaches!
  - What can we do to decrease the disadvantages?
  - What can we do to increase the likelihood of seeing the benefits?
  - How can technology help?
  - What research is there that might apply?
  - What human resources are willing to help?
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## **N = Now what?**

- What problems, risks, or issues must be addressed?
  - Who are the key stakeholders (who will be most affected)?
  - What professional, community, and informal resources can help?
  - What's the plan (what interventions do you need to get results and avoid risks)?
  - What does all this imply?
  - What did we miss when addressing the other balls? (Go through each of the balls again)
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