

Experiencing the Nine Perspectives: Enneagram “Magic Carpet” Exercise

Scenario: The OLLI Committee Challenge You are part of an OLLI volunteer committee planning a major event. The deadline is approaching. A few people are doing most of the work. Communication has become uneven, and tension is starting to build. The committee chair asks: **“What should we do next?”**

How to Participate

Stand on or near the number that feels most familiar, most interesting, or most worth exploring today. You are not making a permanent declaration. You are standing in a perspective. When your number is invited, you may respond using one of these **sentence stems**:

“From this perspective, I notice...”

“What seems important here is...”

“This type might be concerned about...”

“This type might suggest...”

If a number is empty, we may invite one or two curious volunteers to step into that perspective briefly.

The Nine Lenses

<u>Type</u>	<u>Lens Cue</u>	<u>Question to Consider</u>
1	Improvement, integrity, responsibility	What needs to be corrected, improved, or brought back into integrity?
2	Support, care, appreciation	Who needs support, appreciation, or care that may not be getting named?
3	Goals, momentum, success	What result are we trying to achieve, and how do we regain momentum?
4	Meaning, authenticity, emotional truth	What feels emotionally true or meaningful that the group may be avoiding?
5	Clarity, knowledge, boundaries	What do we need to understand before we act, and where might we need better boundaries?
6	Risk, trust, preparedness	What risks, uncertainties, or trust issues should we prepare for?
7	Possibility, energy, options	What options, possibilities, or creative alternatives could re-energize the group?
8	Truth, boundaries, protection	What truth, boundary, or decision needs to be named directly?
9	Peace, inclusion, connection	How do we restore connection and include everyone without avoiding the real issue?

What Did You Notice? As you listen to the nine perspectives, jot down a few notes.

A perspective that felt familiar to me:

A perspective that felt different but useful:

Something another type noticed that I might have missed:

What this tells me about working with others:

What pattern or perspective did I notice today?

So what impact might that pattern have in my relationships, groups, or decisions?

Now what small shift could I practice?

Closing Thought

The Enneagram is not a verdict. It is an invitation.

It helps us pause, notice our patterns, and choose a more conscious response.