

Dreams within Conflict

*Work on a Gridlocked
or Perpetual Problem:
Help Your Partner
Understand the Underlying
Dreams, History, Beliefs or
Values in Your Position on
This Issue.*

SPEAKER'S JOB

Your task is to honestly talk about your feelings and beliefs about your position on this issue. Explore what this position means to you, what the **dream** might be behind your position, tell the story of the source of this dream or this belief: where it comes from and what it symbolizes. You must be clear and honest. What do you *really* want on this issue? Why is it important to you? Try to make your partner understand.

Don't argue for nor try to persuade your partner of your point of view; just explain how you see things. Tell your partner all of your thoughts and feelings that you have about your position on this issue.

You may want to look over the list on the following page for a sample of dreams that people sometimes have (or have lost) that could underlie the position you have taken on this issue.

LISTENER'S JOB

Your job here is to make your partner feel SAFE enough to tell you what's behind their position on the issue: their belief, dream or story. Toward this end, you will **LISTEN**, the way a friend would listen. ***Ask the questions*** that are listed on the next page as sample questions for the dream catcher which draw out your partner and his or her point of view. You can contribute to this climate if you ***suspend judgment*** and don't act like a judge but like someone who wants to hear your partner's story, and the dream behind the story. Just hear it and don't judge it.

Don't try to solve the problem. It is much too soon for that. You first need to end the opposition of dreams and become one another's friend instead of one another's foe. Try to understand the meaning of your partner's dream. Be interested.

- ***It is important to realize that the goal is not to solve these problems. The goal is to move from gridlock to dialogue, and to understand, in depth, their partner's position.***

**Do not argue for your point of view!
Just listen and ask questions.**