And A Little Child Shall Lead Them – Peacemakers 2021

Kluwer Mediation Blog
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I have previously written, back in 2018, about a peer mediation initiative called the Peacemakers Conference. The Peacemakers Conference is a three-day, 13-16 year olds to help resolve conflicts and, in the process, to become conflicts mediators, given a blank sheet of paper, the Peacemakers Conference was broad and relatively unorganized. This year’s Peacemakers Conference was structured and well-researched. The programme comprises the following:

1. Mediation is like a Penguin

The penguin is a large southern sea bird in the southern hemisphere. Penguins represent the process of mediation. They are black and white, which represent mediator neutrality. They generally live in remote continental regions with few land predators which promotes confidentiality. They conserve their heat by working together. The same goes for mediation. Parties have to work together to resolve the conflict. I have previously written about the strengths of penguins. They are black and white, which represent neutrality. They are also black and white, which represent neutrality. They generally live in remote continental regions with few land predators which promotes confidentiality. They conserve their heat by working together. The same goes for mediation. Parties have to work together to resolve the conflict.

2. Mediation is like a Canvas

Mediation is like a canvas. Without the painter, colours on a canvas have no meaning. The painter gives the canvas life and creates an array of colours, whilst maintaining the harmony of an image. Similarly, the mediator starts off with a blank canvas, sorting through the party’s emotions (Colours) and situation, before integrating them into a cohesive outlook on a resolution.

3. Mediation is like a Salad

Mediation is like a salad. Mediation contains different types of ingredients and dressing to make up a delicious and healthy meal. It is just like a salad. In mediation, mediation is made out of different ingredients, whilst maintaining the harmony of an image. Similarly, the mediator starts off with a blank canvas, sorting through the party’s emotions (Colours) and situation, before integrating them into a cohesive outlook on a resolution.

4. Mediation is like a Bear

Mediation is like a bear. Although they cannot fly, they can swim. This shows their adaptability. This ties in well to the way mediators work. They are black and white, which represent neutrality. They generally live in remote continental regions with few land predators which promotes confidentiality. They conserve their heat by working together. The same goes for mediation. Parties have to work together to resolve the conflict.

5. Mediation is like a Pizza

Mediation is like a pizza. The toppings are the ingredients, which are mixed to create a delicious and healthy meal. The same goes for mediation. Parties have to work together to resolve the conflict.

6. Mediation is like a Penguin

The penguin is a large southern sea bird in the southern hemisphere. Penguins represent the process of mediation. They are black and white, which represent mediator neutrality. They generally live in remote continental regions with few land predators which promotes confidentiality. They conserve their heat by working together. The same goes for mediation. Parties have to work together to resolve the conflict.

The Metaphors

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Ms. Sabrina Chau, Mr. Sean Lim and the Peacemakers Facilitation team for capturing the description and images of each of the metaphors that appear below.

1. Mediation is like a Penguin

2. Mediation is like a Canvas

3. Mediation is like a Salad

4. Mediation is like a Bear

5. Mediation is like a Pizza

6. Mediation is like a Penguin

For more metaphors, please refer to the blog entry at the Kluwer Mediation Blog!
Mediation is like a Puzzle

When you have to assemble all the pieces correctly, it sounds like when you solve it. However, when you have to assemble, sometimes the result doesn't satisfy you. Is the color with mediation, where choosing the right words to communicate with all parties can help understand each other more clearly, and thus the outcome would be like a better one, with all parties being comfortable with it. However, patience is required for handling conflicts. Raging conflicts not only makes it hard to see the pattern, but also requires time to stabilize and move forward. The mediator is like an owl, helping the parties solve the problem for themselves. The mediator asks the owl to help the fish solve the problem. Instead of telling the fish what to do, it asks a great question. "What do you think you should do?" This tells us that the owl is letting the fish solve the problem for themselves instead of creating a solution for them. This question allowed the fish to think further and find an option to solve the problem. The mediator helps the parties solve the problem for themselves, just like in mediation.

6. Mediation is like a Sunrise

The metaphor we have selected is the sunrise. Before the sunrise, it is night time. Night time is very dark and gives a negative feeling, which is something we would have during a conflict. Like all those sad and angry emotions, logic, misunderstandings, and interests. The mediator has to know and ensure all sides have been taken care of. Just as there is always a solution for the rubik's cube, there is always a way to solve a conflict. The mediator acts as the server. When the two parties are confused about the steps that they should take in the process of mediation, the mediator asks them questions that help assess various elements, like preferences and factors. This helps them choose suitable coordinations to be added to or be removed. In the same way, there are different kinds of sandwiches. This represents the different ways of approaching problems. Some conflicts are easier and others are difficult to solve, just like the fast food sandwich.

9. Mediation is like Subway

Mediation is like Subway because it represents a partnership where parties come together along with the mediator is like the different ingredients as parties move along the various stages of mediation. The mediator acts as the server. When the two parties are confused about the steps that they should take in the process of mediation. The mediator asks them questions that help assess various elements, like preferences and factors. This helps them choose suitable coordinations to be added to or be removed. In the same way, there are different kinds of sandwiches. This represents the different ways of approaching problems. Some conflicts are easier and others are difficult to solve, just like the fast food sandwich.

10. Mediation is like a Rubik's Cube

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11. Mediation is like a Lego

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13. Mediation is like a Wave

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14. Mediation is like a Puzzle

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