

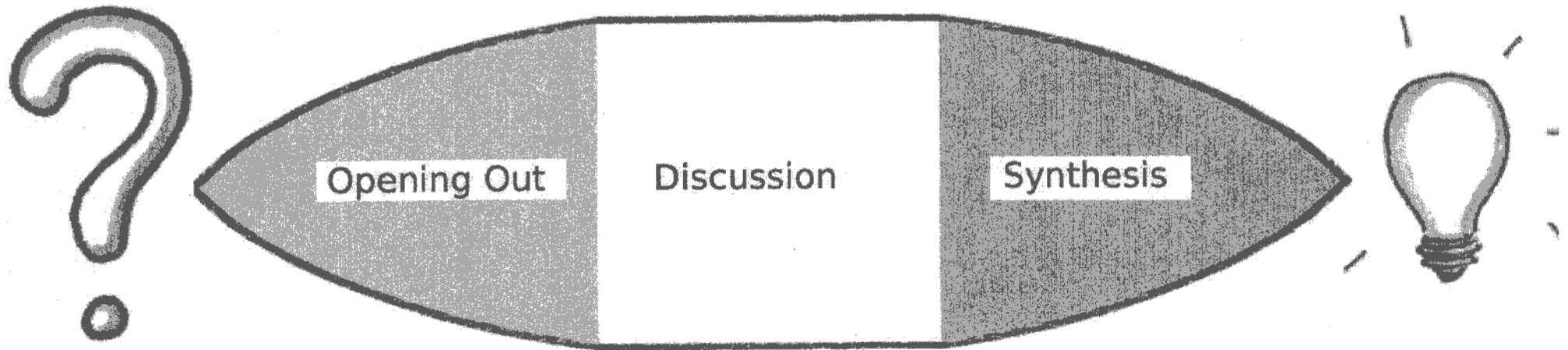
# THE CONSENSUS PROCESS

## Think divergent

- Develop alternatives
- Enable an open and participating discussion
- Collect different point of views
- The problem has not to be solved logically

## Think convergent

- Evaluate alternatives
- Summarise key ideas
- Classify ideas in categories
- Give an common synthesis



### I. Clarify the issue

Introduce and clarify the issue(s) to be decided.  
Share relevant info.  
What are the key questions?

### II. Explore the issue and look for ideas

1. Gather initial thoughts and reactions. What are the issues and people's **concerns**?  
2. Collect **ideas** for solving the problem - write them down.  
3. Have a **broad ranging discussion** and debate the ideas. Start thinking about solutions to people's concerns. Eliminate some ideas, shortlist others.

### III. Look for emerging proposals

Look for a proposal that weaves together the best elements of the ideas discussed. Look for solutions that address **people's key concerns**.

### IV. Discuss, clarify and amend your proposal

Ensure that any remaining concerns are heard and that everyone has a chance to contribute.  
Look for **amendments** that make the proposal even more acceptable to the group.

### V. Test for agreement and implement the decision

Do you have agreement?  
No blocks, not too many stand asides or reservations? Active agreement? **Then we have a decision!**  
Who, when, how? Action point the tasks and set deadlines.