Tips & Resources

Research

- Skim this article written by LS founders Henri Lipmanowicz and Keith McCandless and learn what they are and why they are so powerful: "Liberating Structures: Change Methods for Everybody Every Day."
- Browse the following Liberating Structures website sections:

  - The Liberating Structures Menu - Jump off from this page to view all LS structures AND you can also get to them through the LS Menu drop downs. (Hint: LS Structures info is also available on the Liberating Structures app Android and iOS)
  - The Liberating Structures Principles - There are 10 principles that guide our behaviour using LS.
  - MicroStructures and the Five Design Elements - This page tells us why Liberating Structures are different from 'conventional' structures and the five design elements that all LS structures have which make them so powerful.

- The LS Selection Matchmaker is a super useful resource that shows the purpose of all the structures in the set of 33. Use this to help you match *your* purpose to the purpose statements for each LS.
- Skim Liberating Structures in B.C. Post-Secondary Education: How are They Spreading? Page 3 lists the most frequently-used Liberating Structures in post-secondary education in case you're curious about a structure to potentially try first.
- This Liberating Structures Iceberg article from Keith McCandless (one of the founders of Liberating Structures) explains how we might evolve in our Liberating Structures practice.
- Read about how Liberating Structures are rooted in Complexity Science and Positive Deviance if you're curious about the underpinnings.
- Discover why Liberating Structures are so relevant in these times: "Tiny Changes Making a Huge Difference: Responding to Covid-19"

Design Tips

- If you've tried many of the structures that are part of the original set of 33 maybe you're ready to challenge yourself by trying a new, emerging structure on the LS in Development page.
- Each structure in the LS menu has a *structuring invitation*; use the ones that in the menu descriptions or modify for your own purposes. Try a few drafts of the invitation that you will use with participants as part of the structure. This article on

the [Characteristics of Powerful Invitations for Liberating Structures](#) should give you some early guidance.

- To help you sharpen your invitation, try "playing it out" a bit in your mind - or with an LS-exploring or savvy friend - to see how it would go, asking yourself what participants might think about or say in response to that invitation. Is it too broad or too narrow? Just right? Creating an excellent invitation is a little like [Goldilocks trying out all three of the bears' beds](#)!
- This Liberating Structures Design Storyboard ([blank template](#)) is a great tool to help you in your planning of LS.
- Think about whether you want to try one Liberating Structure or a *string* of two or more structures in a row. Keep your purpose in mind as you work on [LS "strings"](#).

Further Connections

- Learn more about Liberating Structures from a very active global community by joining the [LS #Slack group](#). They are very active in exploring how to facilitate using Liberating Structures online and share many visuals and resources.
- Consider following or joining the activities of local/regional Liberating Structures User groups based in [Victoria](#) and [Vancouver](#).