

**A methodology for prioritising and launching action:
from Macy & Johnstone, Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're In Without Going Crazy**

There are many methods for individual and group work towards the end of being both hopeful and active, tried and tested in workshops and campaigns the authors have run. I know we want to act on concerns while educating ourselves on issues we may not individually be so knowledgeable about. The concept and practice of Co-Intelligence shows a way from concern to action (pages 177 - 179).

The first step: after some moments of quiet reflection, the group brainstorms together, visions for a life-sustaining society.

Listing all the visions, the group then selects one.

Step two: Without censoring, explaining or justifying, as the aim is to promote creative thinking, the participants then brainstorm answers to the question, "What would be needed for this?" Answers are not evaluated, criticised or discussed at this stage, but listed.

Step three: repeating stage two, selecting one opinion, but brainstorming answers to the question: "What would be needed for this to happen?"

The process is repeated for each vision.

Ultimately there emerges a list of practical steps that can be taken by the group or individuals.

It may well be necessary to make choices, with a range of possibilities before us. M & J advise 'listening for the vision that calls us most strongly', so as to have a refined focus and not dissipate our energy. Like thinning seedlings, they say, we need to clear space around the strongest so it can grow and thrive. M & J remind us that we are part of a larger picture, trusting in the larger intelligence of Life, of the Spirit, of God as we understand God...

"A larger story is taking place, and we've just chosen, or been chosen, to play a particular role in it."

Maxine

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