



# North, South, East and West: Compass Points

## An Exercise in Understanding Preferences in Group Work

*Developed in the field by educators affiliated with NSRF*

Similar to the Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory, this exercise uses a set of preferences which relate not to individual but to group behaviors, helping us to understand how preferences affect our group work.

1. The room is set up with four signs on each wall — North, South, East and West.
2. Participants are invited to go to the “direction” of their choice. No one is only one “direction,” but everyone can choose one as their pre-dominant one.
3. Each “direction” answers the five questions on a sheet of newsprint. When complete, they report back to the whole group.
4. Processing can include:
  - Note the distribution among the “directions”: what might it mean?
  - What is the best combination for a group to have? Does it matter?
  - How can you avoid being driven crazy by another “direction”?
  - How might you use this exercise with others? Students?

	<p><b>North</b>  <i>Acting – “Let’s do it;”          Likes to act, try things,          plunge in.</i></p>	
<p><b>West</b>  <i>Paying attention to detail          – likes to know the who,          what, when, where and why          before acting.</i></p>		<p><b>East</b>  <i>Speculating – likes to look          at the big picture and the          possibilities before acting.</i></p>
	<p><b>South</b>  <i>Caring – likes to know          that everyone’s feelings          have been taken into          consideration and that their          voices have been heard          before acting.</i></p>	

