

PARTNERSHIP AS A CREATIVE PRACTICE

Team Reflection Exercise

PURPOSE

Creative work rarely happens alone. It happens between people. This short practice is designed to help two collaborators better understand how their partnership fuels creativity, especially through difference, tension, and trust.

Use this worksheet with someone you work closely with: a co-leader, manager or direct report, project partner, or long-term collaborator.



WHAT YOU'LL GAIN:

Clearer roles, healthier tension, and one small experiment to improve how you create together

TIME REQUIRED: 15 minutes

STEP 1: NAME THE CREATIVE DYNAMIC

Take 5-7 minutes to reflect individually. Write honestly. There's no need to be polished!

1. When our collaboration is working well, my natural contribution tends to be:

(Examples: framing the problem, generating ideas, sensemaking, pushing for action, grounding decisions)

2. When we get stuck, the tension that most often shows up between us is:

(Examples: speed vs reflection, vision vs execution, optimism vs skepticism)

Now share your responses with one another. Listen without correcting or defending. The goal here is understanding, not alignment.



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STEP 2: FLIP THE FRICTION

5 minutes working together.

Choose one tension you both recognize.

Complete this sentence together:

“This tension helps our work when it allows us to...”

Write your shared reframe clearly. This is your **Creative Contract**, a reminder that friction can be productive when handled with care.

STEP 3: DESIGN A ONE-WEEK EXPERIMENT

5 minutes working together.

Decide on **one small behavior** you will test the next time this tension appears.

Use this prompt:

When this tension shows up, we will try _____ instead of

_____.

Keep it small and realistic. This is an experiment, not a permanent rule.

Revisit after one week

Take five minutes to reflect together.

- What felt easier in our collaboration this week?
- What surprised us?
- What do we want to keep or adjust going forward?

Remember:

Creative partnerships are not about eliminating differences. They are about learning how to work with them, intentionally and generously.

