

Culture Change Canvas Tool

A framework based on "influence channels" that shape and define an organization's culture. Helps teams develop an actionable, specific culture change plan for their organization.

WHEN

The Culture Change Canvas works any time an organization's established culture does not support its goals and objectives. It also works any time the organization is facing significant changes in its environment (e.g., financial, technical, competitive).

WHY

An organization's culture influences the beliefs and behaviors of its members, shaping how they see the world, make decisions, and solve problems. Changing an organization's culture by introducing new principles (beliefs) and practices (behaviors) can help improve the organization's outcomes.

HOW

- STEP 1: Assemble a small culture change team. Give each participant a copy of the Culture Change Canvas to use (ideally on 11x17 paper).
- STEP 2: Write some adjectives in the yellow Desired Culture box, such as creative, compliant, collaborative, speed-oriented, risk-averse, thrifty, creative, etc.
- STEP 3: List some people, organizations, or groups that already exhibit the desired culture in the green Already Here box.
- STEP 4: Identify the organization's members in the bottom box. List the job categories, roles, or positions of the people whose behaviors and beliefs express the organization's culture (e.g., Engineers, Program Managers, Executives).
- STEP 5: Fill out the four quadrants with specific answers to the italicized prompts. Include existing items that support the desired culture, as well as new items that need to be developed. Write action sentences, such as "Ms. X meets with Group Y and says Z," or "Increase offerings of Course ABC by X%."
- STEP 6: Identify any contradictory messages coming through these channels. Recognize that enthusiasm in one channel can be contradicted by silence in another.
- STEP 7: Circle the concrete actions in each quadrant that contribute to conveying a consistent, coherent message through all four channels. Assemble these actions into a consolidated action plan and then take them.



Culture Change Canvas Tool | Worksheet

DESIRED	ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS	PEER NETWORKS
CULTURE	Who are the leaders? What metrics matter to them? What messages are they sending? What messages should they send?	Who are the rank-and-file leaders within the organization? What formal or informal groups bring members together? How/where/when can we invite them to participate in changing the culture?
	Investments Metrics Messages Incentives Enablers	Competitors Influencers Networks Mentors
	TRAINING & EDUCATION	LITERATURE
ALREADY THERE	What skills or knowledge would foster the desired culture? What course(s) can the schoolhouse develop / deliver to reinforce the culture? What informal training channels can we tap into?	What literature channels do practitioners engage with (books, journals, blogs, etc.)? What content can we distribute / develop to reinforce the culture?
	Classes Workshops Presentations Webinars	Books Papers Articles Videos
	MEMBERS	

Describe The Culture

Spare No Expense Be Thrifty
Take Your Time Go Fast

Complexity is Sophistication

Compliance is Essential

Critical Thinking is Essential

Predict Experiment
Hypothetical Practical
Planning Improvising
Avoid Risk Tolerate Risk
Pursue Certainty Embrace Uncertainty
Follow Specific Rules Follow General Principles
Boundaries are Firm Boundties are Permeable

Either/Or Both/And

Emphasize Conformity Emphasize Tailoring

One Way Many Ways
No Yes

X Current O Desired

