

Mary & Steven Swig Program in the Arc of Pragmatic Inquiry®



Presidio Center for Sustainable Solutions & San Francisco Theological Seminary
(Presbyterian), University of Redlands Campus, San Anselmo, California.

How can you change the world?

**Five Pre-Work questions to develop
a testable hypothesis and begin the
Arc of Pragmatic Inquiry® (API) practice.**

As a Pragmatic Idealist, your aim is to create, develop, implement, and test ideas for products, services, policies, strategies, and plans to meet society's needs...and help change the world so that all Life flourishes.

With a testable hypothesis, you can begin the 5 Phases of inquiry: *Begin, Explore, Interpret, Decide, & Act*. The questions and exercises in the *PathFinder Lab Journal* – your textbook/workbook available at PragmaticInquiry.org and click on *Book Shop* - will help support and guide your evolving career thinking in the API practice...as a Pragmatic Idealist.



*Education is not the filling of a pail, but the igniting of a fire.*¹
W.B. YEATS/PLUTARCH

Find, reflect, & test your
'values-based vision'
to drive personal
& organization
performance
...so that all
Life flourishes.



1. This ubiquitous phrase, even reported being seen in a fortune cookie, puts into words the ancient, archetypal symbol of education as the passing of the torch of knowledge and igniting the fire from one generation to the next.

Note: Write/draw/sketch/doodle quickly your best thoughts, answers, hunches, guesses, dreams, intuitions to these 5?s.

WHAT DOES THE WORLD NEED FOR ALL LIFE TO FLOURISH?

1. What market, society, community, or environmental needs, problems, or opportunities do you see which you might address and solve through your career?

WHAT MUST BE OVERCOME - YOUR CHALLENGE/QUESTION?

2. What challenges, questions, barriers, concerns, problems, OR issues do you face in meeting these needs? We call this your Challenge/question **[Cq]**. Be aware of your own constraints as well as the competitive, social, market, and organization pressures, systems, values and beliefs in place now.

WHAT ARE YOUR PRELIMINARY CAREER OR PROJECT IDEAS?

3. What are your initial ideas for career paths to meet those needs? What is your best answer to your Challenge/question **[Cq]** now? Do you have a specific project you plan to work on, or are working on now?
(This is the heart of a flourishing life...for us all.)

WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN YOUR PROJECT/IDEA?

4. WHAT ARE YOUR VALUES AND VISION: How are your beliefs, goals, purpose, values and vision (the future you see; your 'world-view') guiding your thinking about your career and project? **Note:** They are what guided you to choose your project and path in the first place.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

5. What are the next career steps you will take, or are taking now, based on your initial answers?

What are my Big Ideas to “change the world”?

This Pre-Work begins your Arc of Pragmatic Inquiry® practice. See pages 19-24 in your *PathFinder* Lab Journal – your textbook/workbook available [here](#) - for more “Begin *Attentively*” information and blank journaling pages.

Purpose

The purpose of your engagement in the API practice is to find effective new ways to understand and address the pressing needs of the market, society, community, and the environment. (Your higher purpose or ‘calling’.) You will strategically explore the questions and problems that face you and an organization, now or in the future, to better understand how to build a flourishing future for all.

Process

Your Inquiry begins with defining the situation and challenges you see, the needs you think you can address, and then stating your initial ideas to meet those needs. During your API Inquiry through 5 Phases – Begin, Explore, Interpret, Decide, & Act - you will test these ideas against the evidence from your experience and learning. The outcome of your Inquiry will be to decide on the best course of action for you and your organization to implement and test these idea

Your Values and Vision

We are also asking you to evaluate your personal values and why you believe those ideas are important to you. We want you to reflect upon your vision for the future – your hopes for the world, the Common Good – and see how your project, based on your ‘values-based vision’, will meet society’s needs and help shape that future.

That’s why we start with your baseline assumptions, Challenge/questions, and ideas, as well as a statement of Values and Vision: they ultimately are driving your Inquiry...and your life.

Dedication

The Arc of Pragmatic Inquiry® is the *PathFinder* that helps us uncover the truth we do not yet know, leading to the action we have yet to take.



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Note: The logo depicts random activity and cacophony before finding a rhythm in the “flux” of life. Then with others, driven by their ‘values and vision’, the organization gets to work. They move together in a community, like violin strings that are being plucked.

Corporantes: Latin — present participle of the verb, *corporare*, from the root noun, *corpus* — “Forming into a body,” which describes the result of a group inquiring together.

For our tagline: “Own Who You Are®” leads to authentic branding. Our management equivalent of “Know Thyself.”

Ron Nahser , PhD.
CORPORANTES, Inc.
P.O. Box 6629
Evanston, IL 60204-6629
312.845.5000
www.PragmaticInquiry.org

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