Navigating difference and disagreement

Joel Chippindale LeadDev Berlin, November 2025



What we are doing...

- Introduction
- Reflecting on our own experiences of navigating disagreement
- Reflecting on how our team handles disagreement
- Developing our ideas about creating healthy dynamics
- Wrap up

Joel Chippindale

- CTO Coach at Monkey's Thumb
- Member of the Founder Coaches Network
- Former CTO, COO and software developer



Shared container

We'd value

- Self-management
- Sharing time to speak
- Curiosity and nonjudgement

We're mindful of...

- Sensitive topics or information
- Jargon/different languages
- Processing styles & speeds

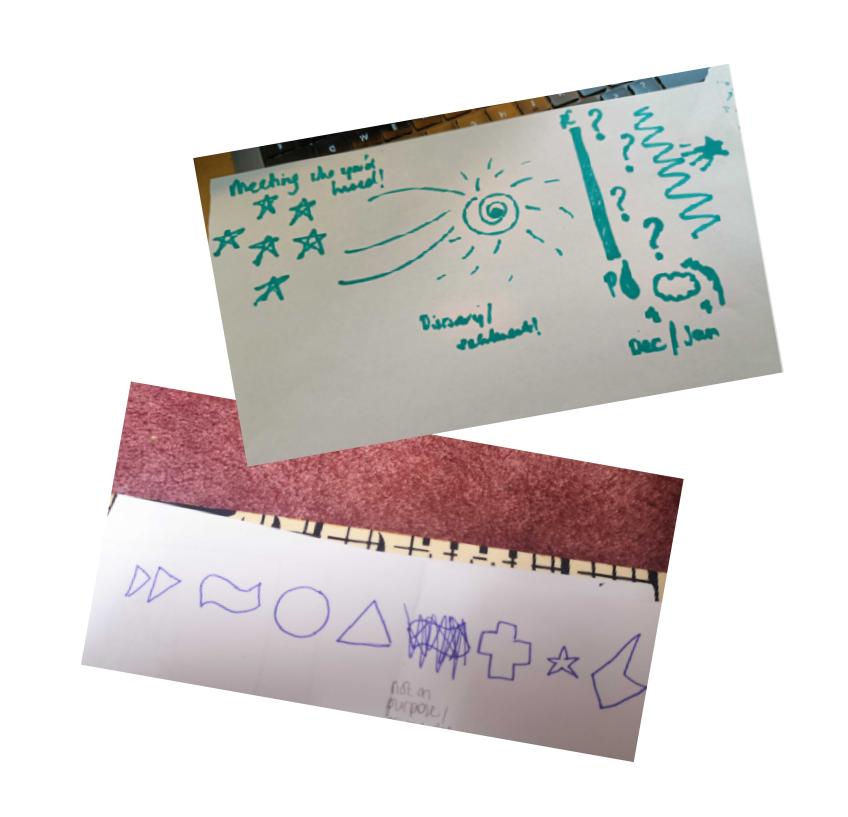
...anything else?

"The discomfort we experience is a sign we are getting close to a subject that matters"

— Darren Chetty from How to disagree: Negotiating difference in a divided world

Activity

Using shapes only, draw an experience of when you've been involved in OR avoided conflict/disagreement

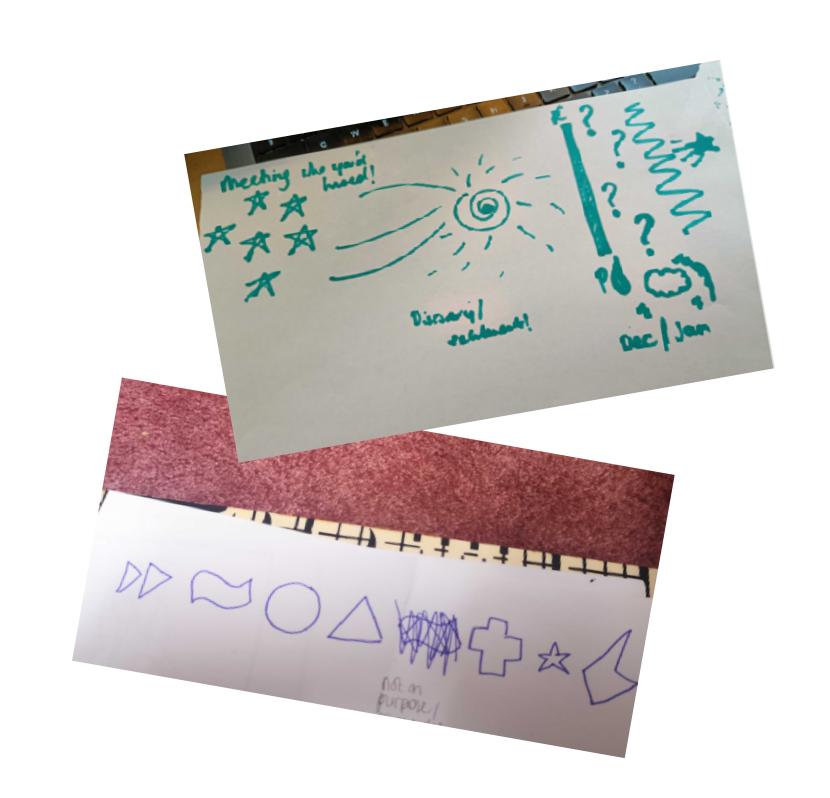


Deep listening

Listen to your partner sharing the meaning of their shapes

Ask open questions

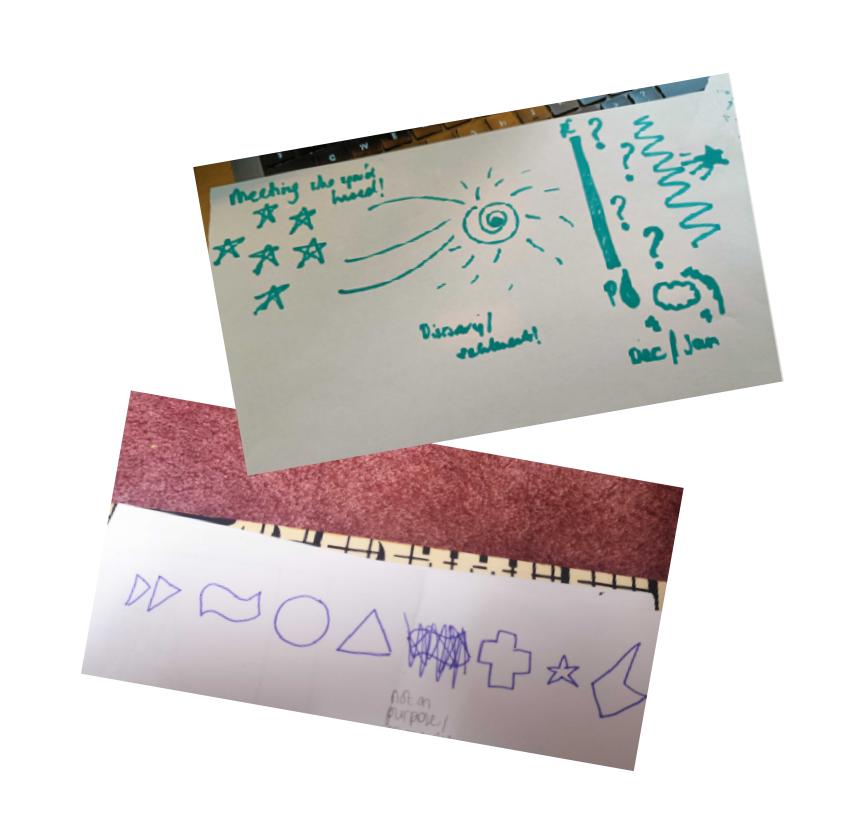
Reflect back your understanding



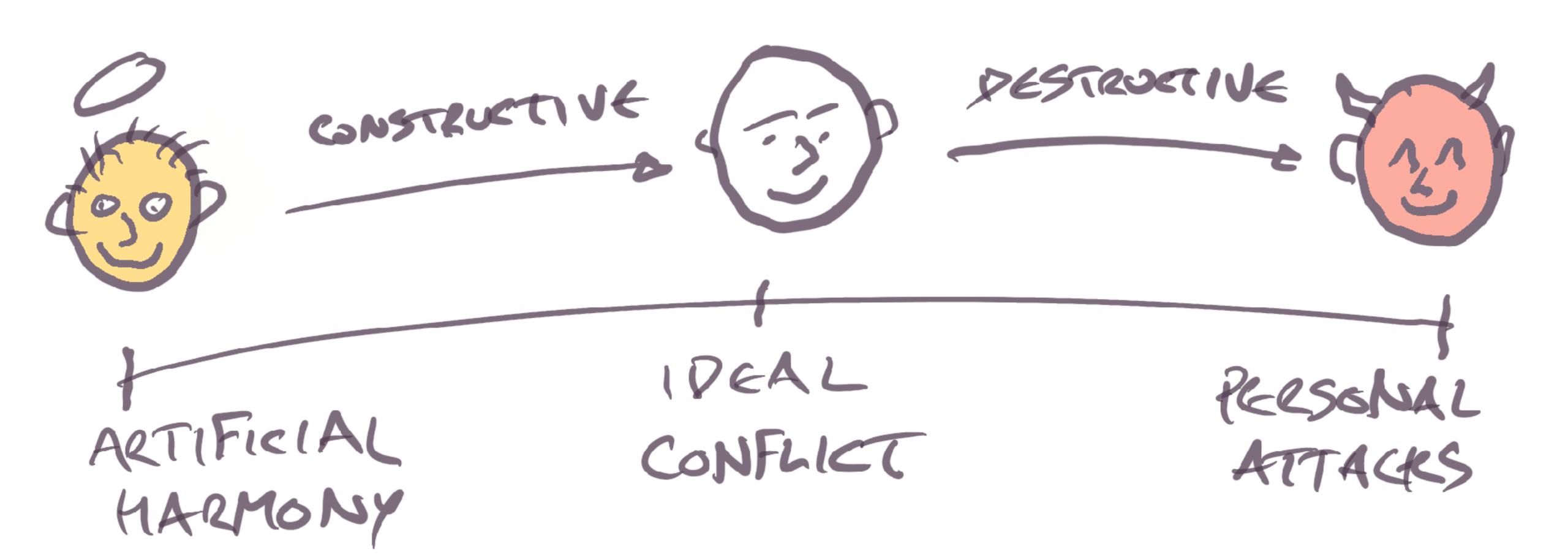
Reflections

What did you learn about how you or others navigate difference or disagreement?

In what scenarios might this type of exercise be helpful?



LENCIONIS GNFLICT CONTINUUM



Activity

Share where you feel your team are on Lencioni's Conflict Continuum

Swap with your partner

LENCIONIS GNFLICT CONTINUUM

CONSTRUCTIVE

CONFLICT

RECSCHAL

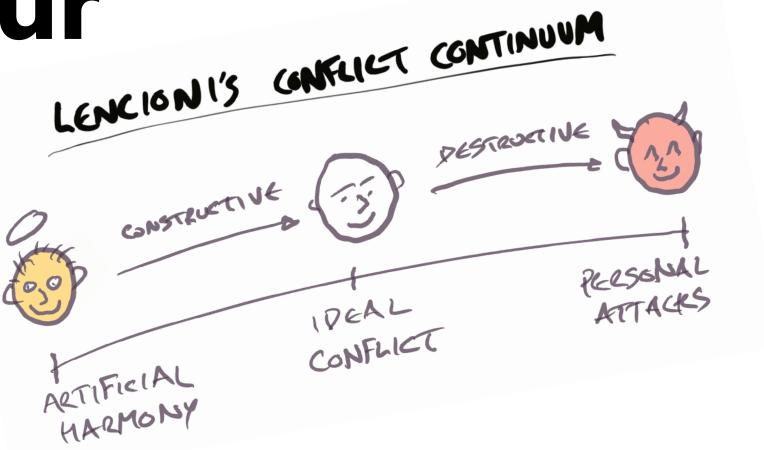
HARMONY

Reflections

What insights or perspectives did this open up for you about your team?

How might an exercise like this help you when there is conflict in your

team



Troika consulting

In groups of 3:

- 1. Person A share a challenge that they currently or recently experienced where difference of disagreement has been present in the team (1-2 minutes)
- 2. Persons B & C ask quick clarifying questions if needed (1-2 minutes)
- 3. Person A turn around or close eyes
- 4. Persons B & C discuss what they would do in this situation and consider it from different angles (5-7 minutes)
- 5. Person A turn back around and share what they learnt from listening to the others talk (1 minute)
- 6. Switch roles so that you have a new person sharing a challenge and repeat a second time

Reflections

How did you find that exercise?

How could you use it to help you unearth differences or navigate disagreements?

Reflection

What are you taking away from this workshop?

What would you be willing to try?

Sharing

What are you taking away from this workshop?

Thank you

Resources and feedback

• https://monkeysthumb.co.uk/ldb-25



Stay in touch

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Joel Chippindale, CTO Coach @ Monkey's Thumb November 2025 LeadDev Berlin