

**The Fourth National Symposium
on Dispute Resolution in
Special Education**

December 7, 2006

The Making of an IEP Meeting Facilitation



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Agenda

Welcome

Session introduction

Activity – Part I

Who are the most effective facilitators?

Traits of an effective facilitator

Defining success

A few of the concepts, strategies and techniques facilitators utilize

Activity – Part II

Q & A, idea sharing

IEP MEETING VS. MEDIATION

PROCESS DIFFERENCES

IEP Meeting

Limited time

Extensive paperwork

Pre-determined setting

Numerous participants

Rotating participation

Mandatory participation

Content driven

Existing process, limited flexibility

Semi-confidential

Facilitator conducts intake

Agenda/issues listed prior to meeting

Mediation

Unlimited time

Minimal paperwork

Neutral setting

Few participants

Continuous participation

Voluntary participation

Process driven

Controlled process

Confidential

Staff conducts intake

Issues listed at meeting

PROCESS SIMILARITIES

- ❖ Parties (usually) want to resolve differences and reach an agreement
- ❖ Emotions play a key role in the conflict
- ❖ Different points of view prevent understanding
- ❖ Communication has broken down