# STS300, The environmental context, 2005

## *Stage 1: po*

Edward de Bono coined the word "po," meaning "provocation operation."

There are various ways to develop provocations, including:

* **Escape:** spell out something we take for granted, then cancel or negate it.
  *Example:* We take for granted that consumption causes pollution.
     Po, consumption reduces pollution.
  *Example:* We take for granted that we can buy food.
     Po, we cannot buy food.

* **Reversal:** take the usual way something is done and reverse it.
  *For example*, I enjoy wilderness. Po, the wilderness enjoys me.
  *For example*, Parents decide to have children. Po, children decide to have parents.

* **Exaggeration**
  *Example:* Po, stratospheric ozone has disappeared.
  *Example:* Po, there are endless reserves of fossil fuels.

* **Distortion**
  *Example:* Po, pollution in the future affects people now.
  *Example:* Po, politicans vote to select their electorates.

* **Wishful thinking**
  *Example:* Po, I can consume all I like without harming the environment.
  *Example:* Po, Buildings construct themselves.

## *Stage 2: applying po*

**In your group,**

1. Write down at least 15 provocations related to limits to growth.

2. Pick three of these provocations for development. Work out how they might actually work. (This is likely to involve doing things very differently!)

3. Figure out how these three provocations relate to a theory (your choice).

4. Write your results (15 provocations, three of which are elaborated and related your theory) on an A3 sheet with your names.

5. Prepare a skit lasting about 90 seconds illustrating and explaining one provocation.