

What now?

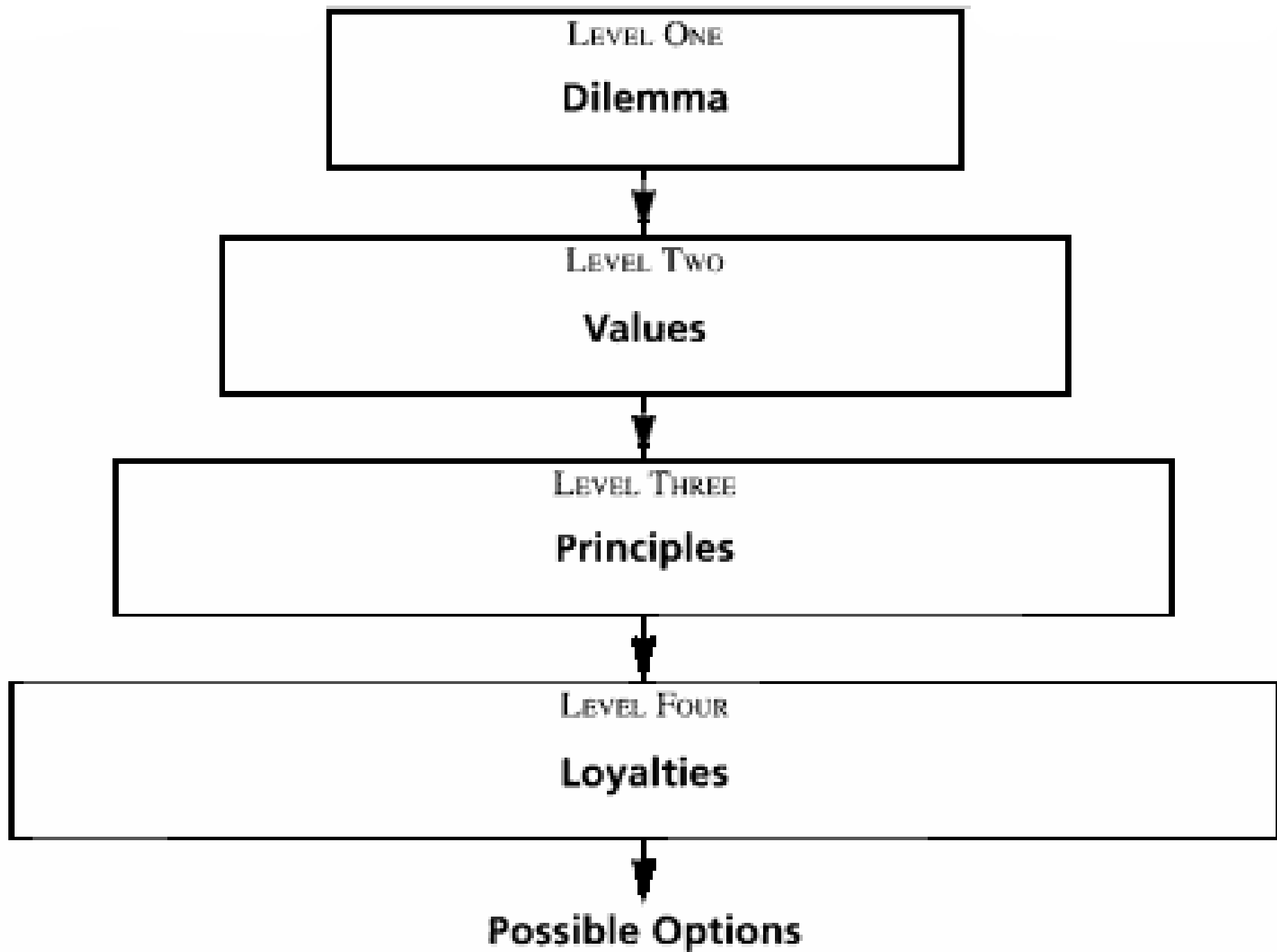


Case Studies - a unique
teaching tool

Cultural Anthropology
Southern Nazarene University

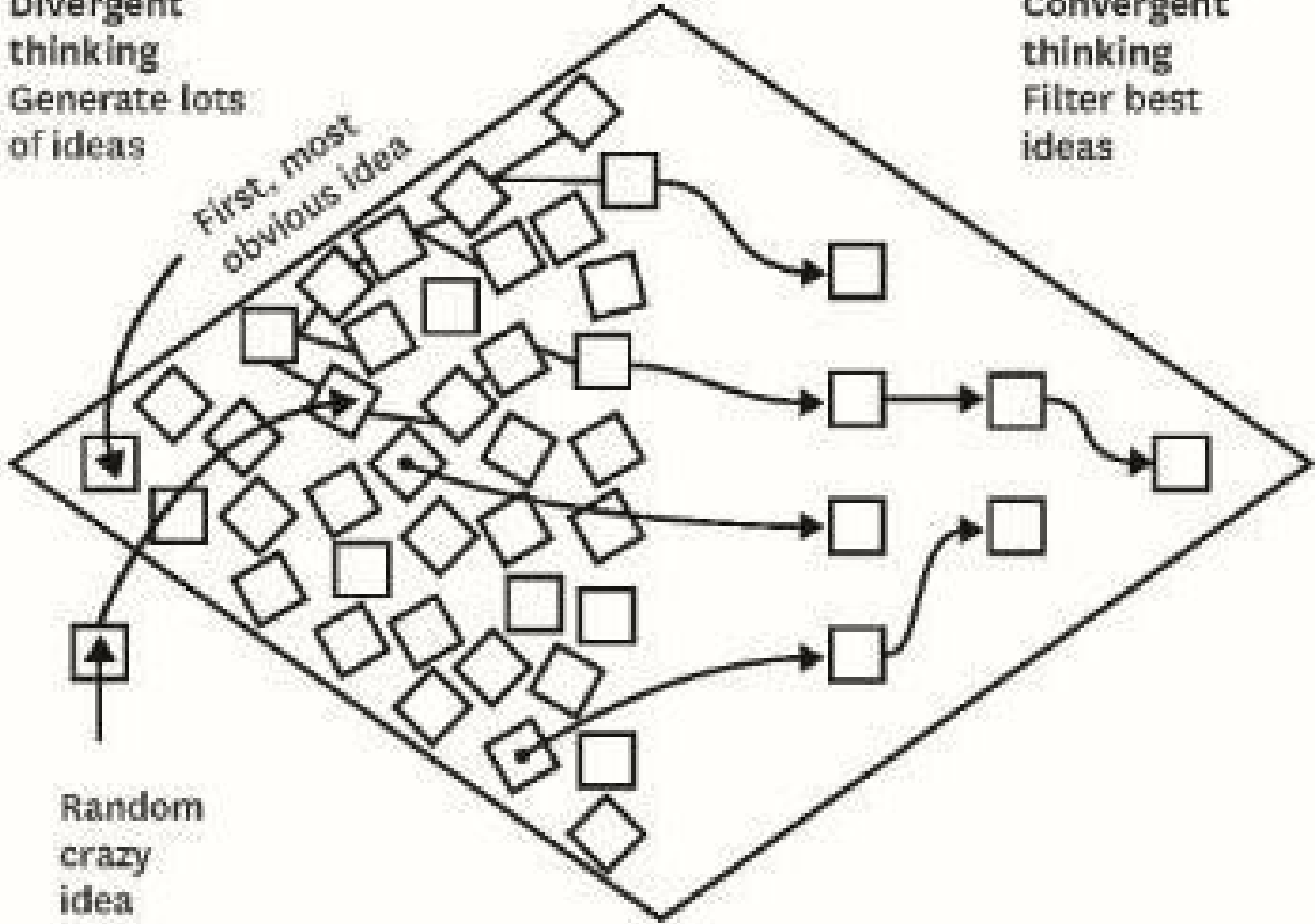
What's a case study?

- **An open-ended actual story**
 - No ending given
 - Brings chunks of reality into the classroom
- **A difficult problem, a dilemma without an obvious solution**
- **Pioneered by Harvard business school**
- **Forces us into a real situation where we have to answer: "What do we do now?"**



Divergent thinking
Generate lots of ideas

Convergent thinking
Filter best ideas



Step 1 to making a case study into a learning tool

Read the entire case study narrative.

- Know the cast of characters
- Who is involved?
- What are their historical relationships?
- What constituencies do they represent?
- Understand the flow of events
- How did the problem arise?
- Is there a deadline for a decision?
- Determine from whose perspective the events are described.

Step 2 to making a case study into a learning tool

Formulate a clear statement of the problem.

- What values or interests are being challenged?
- What is the central question?

Step 3 to making a case study into a learning tool

Identify the issues at stake.

- List the factors that are relevant to the problem.
- Which ingredients have compounded the problem or have even created it?
- In which area is there negotiating room?
- Can any negative concerns be reframed positively?

Step 4 to making a case study into a learning tool

Clarify facts as well as feelings.

- In your initial reading, some of the case's facts, elements or issues may not have seemed very important. As you reflect on the case, are there items which have grown in importance in your mind?
- What items need clarification? In order to process the case study, will you have to make some assumptions about some key unstated facts?
- What feelings do you and others have after reading the case study?

Step 5 to making a case study into a learning tool

Consider the case study from different angles.

- A jewel's facets show up best as it is turned to let light hit those facets at different angles. Approach the case study in the same way. Look at it from several different angles. That is, consider it from the points of view of each person involved.

Step 6 to making a case study into a learning tool

Dig around for resources.

- What assets are available to resolve the problem?
- Can partnering and networking be used?

Step 7 to making a case study into a learning tool

Make some assertions:

- What ought to be going on?
- What needs to happen to set that in motion?
- To implement the most viable solution, what must be done and by whom?

This PowerPoint presentation is available along with related materials and other PowerPoint presentations at <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/ppt.htm>

