



3-card Tarot Metaphor Elicitation Technique

The Law of Three – is expressed (and experienced) in a variety of ways.

The rule holds that anything in groups of three seems more valuable or desirable or attainable than any other sum.

In the Tarot, the Law of Three is found in the Wheel of Fortune. Three energies or forces are positive, negative and neutral. Or perhaps they are affirming, denying and reconciling. Or could they be inside, outside or all around?

The Tarot for metaphor elicitation is very flexible in the meaning that can be made. For a 3-card spread, you may use the entire deck, the Major Arcana, the Minor Arcana ‘Pip’ Cards or the Court Cards.

You might use it as a “convincer” with a three-card “reading” using an alphabetic representation and the client’s initials. You can then use the Alphabet Correspondence to create a story about the most positive aspects of the cards as applicable in observable knowledge. This technique may also be used as a handy parlor trick to “read” a client even without using actual cards. But then, that’s reading and not eliciting metaphor.

You might have the client do their own guided metaphor reading using the 3 cards to tap into any one of a variety of frames to illustrate: past-present-future; trigger-behavior-consequence; motivation-action-result; me-you-us; yes-no-tie-breaker; family-friends-self...or whatever combination offers the greatest opportunity for insight using a focal point.

One’s imagination is the only limit to the frame that might be placed around a card or set of cards to establish an opening for eliciting meaning from the client.

1. Establish Rapport
2. Get a frame from the client for the metaphoric exploration. A question or goal or issue...so there will be a foundation on which meaning can be made.
3. People typically will easily believe the things that boost their ego and will avoid things that challenge their ego. The Tarot cards add picturesque pathways for reframing or perspective change.
4. Asking questions – “What does this card mean to you?”, “What do you notice in this picture?”, “A ‘7’ could have something to do with emotions. Does that mean anything to you?” Keep your input artfully vague to allow for insight to be developed by the querent.
5. Allow the conversation to evolve based on the presenting question/issue and the responses received.