

Break-out-of-the-box Thinking

Bob 'Idea Man' Hooey

This will help to jog your problem-solving skills. You can create novel ideas by **NOT** following expectations, rules, regulations, assumptions or long-standing traditions or company history or policy. Go against the grain and the status quo to find the ultimate solution you need.

Just for a moment, **remove the speed limits from your mind** and challenge your traditional linear thinking. Ask yourself a few questions to trigger your creative juices.

Look at your problem or idea and ask yourself a few questions. This will allow you to change the way you look at them. A change in perspective can productively change your results.

Take a moment and ask yourself:

What if?

If only?

Why not?

Who says?

Does it apply to me?

By whose standards?

Is there another way?

Continue asking yourself:

Let's pretend for a minute we had all the resources, personnel, and time we need to solve this challenge?

What would I be able to accomplish?

Is there a second right answer?

What happens if I do nothing?

What is the best that can happen?

What is the worst that can happen?

How can I benefit or learn from this experience?

Just a few mind joggers to help kick start your thinking.

Take a few minutes and write some answers that relate to your goal or problem at hand as they relate to the previous statements and questions.

Using this style of questioning process helps **unlock your creativity**. It is this creativity that holds the seed of your eventual success in reaching your goal or resolution of your problem.

“Today... creativity must go beyond mere idea generation: the light bulb that goes on over the head of the talented person. It must become an ongoing process, not just momentary and isolated epiphanies. Creativity...is also a process that is linked to how knowledge is managed, because it is inheritantly defined by quantum leaps in understanding that lead to the realization of value.” John Kao in ‘A Passion for Ideas.’

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Bob ‘Idea Man’ Hooey, DTM, PRA, CKD-Emeritus, Accredited Speaker, 2011 Spirit of CAPS recipient is an inspirational leader, speaker, and a prolific author whose works include **‘Legacy of Leadership’**, , **‘Why Didn’t I THINK of That’**, **‘Speaking for Success’** and **‘The Courage to Lead!’** His articles have been featured in a multitude of North American trade and global consumer publications. He is a respected leader who has been honored by CAPS, NSA, Toastmasters, and the United Nations for his leadership contributions. His creative Ideas At Work have allowed him to travel the globe sharing insights, encouragement in 61 countries, so far. With Covid-19 he has been zooming around the globe to share his

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