Chapter 6: Keeping an Open Mind

“Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open”

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Overview

- **Problem**: An established mind-set can inhibit progress.

- **Solution**: Overcoming an established mind-set by broadening one's perspective.
Mental Ruts

• It is easier to think of something that you frequently think about.

• It is more difficult to think of something you think about less frequently.

• Examples: writers block, debugging software, Halloween costumes.
Questioning Assumptions

- Sensitivity Analysis
- Identify Alternative Models
- Be Wary of Mirror Images
Seeing Different Perspectives

- Thinking Backwards – Could you be wrong?
- Crystal Ball – If your wrong, how so?
- Role Playing – Act out an alternate view.
- Devil's Advocate – Challenge your own idea.
Knowing When to Change Your Mind

- Watch for surprises.
- Strategic Assumptions vs. Tactical Indicators
Stimulating Creative Thinking

- Deferred Judgment
- Quantity Leads to Quality
- No Self-Imposed Constraints
- Cross-Fertilization of Ideas
- Idea Evaluation
Experimental Results

• No relationship between intelligence and creativity.

• Factors that do seem to affect creativity:
  ➔ Persons role
  ➔ Self esteem
  ➔ Relationship with superior
  ➔ Size of project
  ➔ Engaging in other activities