

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***: Over coming 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