



# From Roadblocks to Breakthroughs

Discover the Secrets of Creative Problem  
Solving and Critical Thinking

## Meet Your Facilitator



### Phillip Edge

*Trainer and Consultant*  
**Corporate Education Group**

- Facilitator, trainer, mentor, and keynote speaker with over two decades of experience in personal and professional development
- Certified in Myers-Briggs, DiSC, Achieve Global, Change Style Indicator, StrengthsFinder
- Certified Life/Executive Coach, Inside Out Coaching

## Course Objectives

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**This session includes the following topics:**

- Explore the principles and characteristics of creative problem-solving and critical thinking
- Discover strategies to overcome barriers
- Gain practical tips for integrating creative problem-solving and critical thinking into your everyday life

## Challenges That We Face...

Answer the following using chat:

- What are obstacles or challenges you currently face in your workplace that hinder growth and innovation?



# Definition of Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is reasonable, reflective thinking that is focused on deciding what to believe and what to do.



Source: A Cambridge Assessment publication. <http://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/research-matters/>

# Benefits of Critical Thinking



Think independently

Make better decisions

Solve problems systematically

Think more creatively

Increase self-reflection

# Curiosity

## Think like a kid

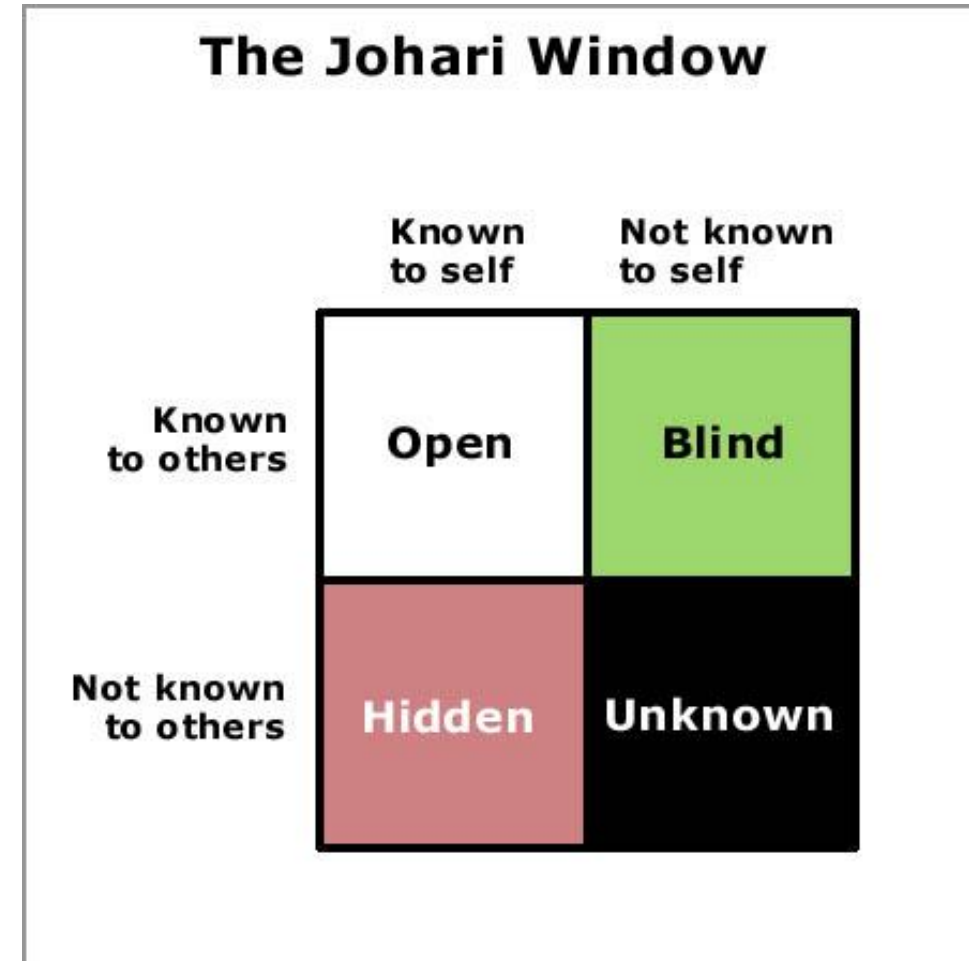
- “Naïve observer”
- Show humility
- Ask questions
- Project inquisitiveness



## Johari Window

Think like a kid

Awareness is knowing what you know, and knowing what you don't know.





## Flexibility

### Someone who is flexible:

- Is open to new information
- Changes approach or perspective
- Adapts easily and rapidly
- Considers alternative points of view
- Not easily stressed
- Solves problems through compromise and consensus

## How Many Faces Do You See?



## What Do You See?

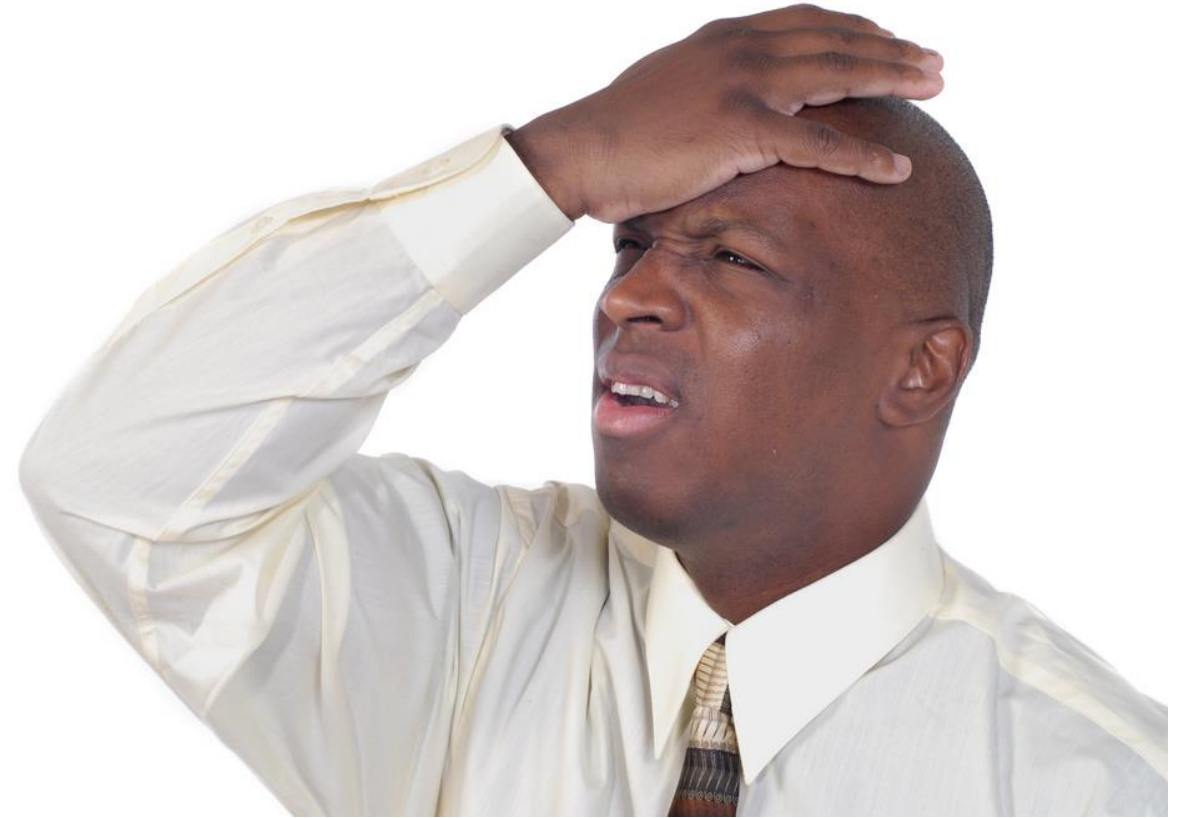


## The Opposite of Flexibility



## Common Sense

- Pay attention to the obvious
- Verification and accuracy
- Sniff test?
- Consider the source



## Critical Thinking Mistakes



# Rationalization



**Conclusion**  **Evidence**  **Rationalization**

## Tunnel Vision





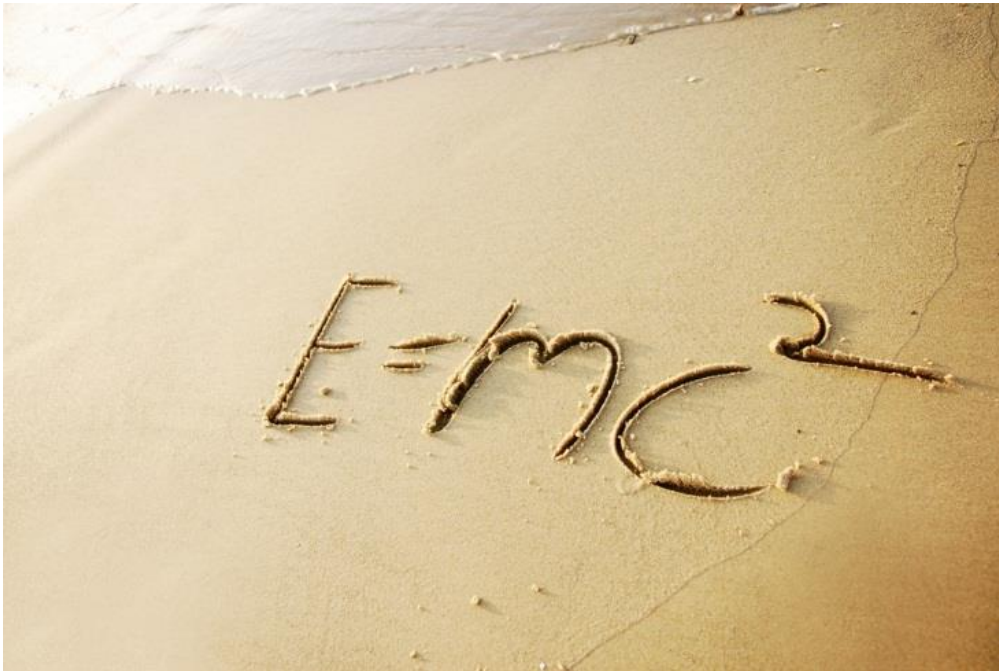
# When Is Four Half of Five?

F ( I V ) E

## How Do We Remove Roadblocks?



# Creative Problem Solving



**“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”**

—Albert Einstein

## Which Group Is More Creative?

- NASA engineers
- First graders
- Modern painters
- Homemakers
- Journalists

- Auto mechanics
- Architects
- College students
- Movie producers



## Which Group Is More Creative?

- Age 40 – 2% creative
- Age 30 – 2% creative
- Age 25 – 2% creative
- Age 17 – 10% creative
- Age 5 – over 90% creative



## Creativity

- The process of generating something new that has value.
- There are many new ideas, but some may not have value.

## • Innovation

- The process of creating something new.
- It has significant value to an individual, group, an organization, society, or an industry.

## Which Is It?

### Creativity

- The process of generating something new that has value
- There are many new ideas, but some may not have value

### Innovation

- The process of creating something new
- It has significant value to an individual, group, organization, society, or an industry

# Creative Environment

“The question isn’t whether you want more creative employees; you’ve already got them. The real question is whether you’re going to recognize their creativity and figure out how to use it better.”

— Stan Gryskiewicz,  
The Center for Creative Leadership



# Creative Problem Solving

Bridging the gap between  
where you **are...**



...and where you  
**want** to be.

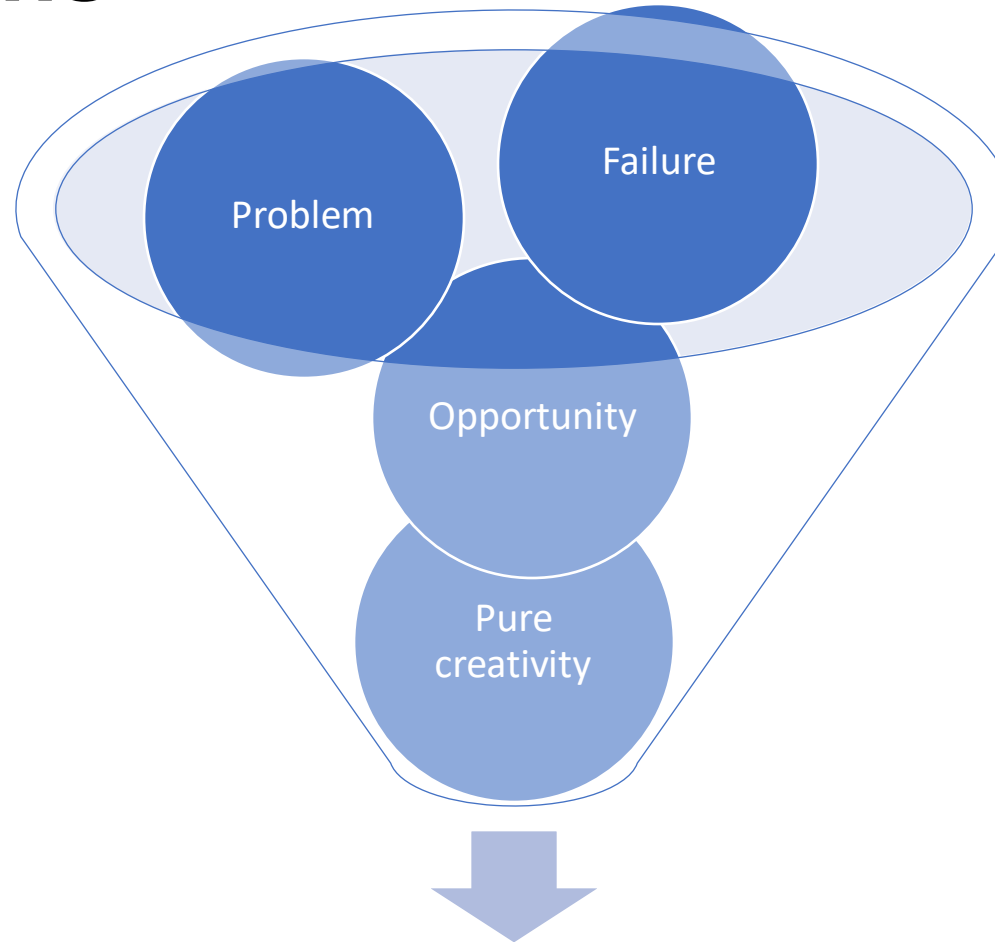
# The Giraffe Test



**Please click the Youtube link below if you have any difficulty seeing the video playing on this slide:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofFy7vRgXSg>

# Creative Actions



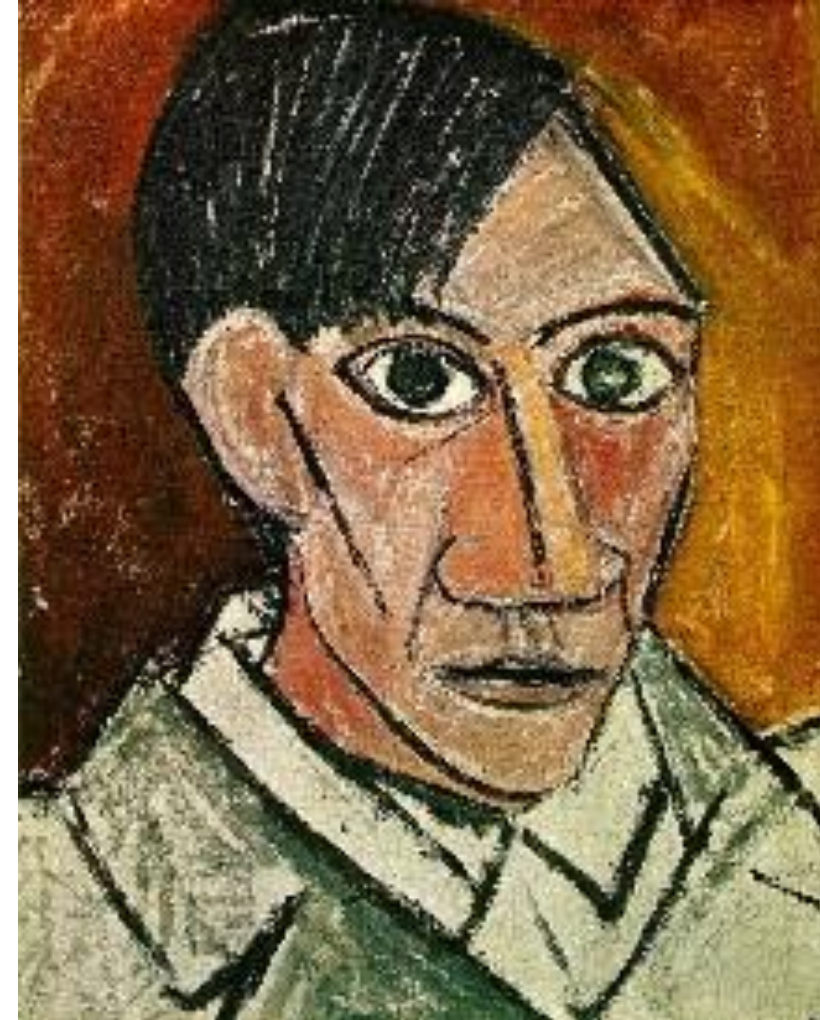
Action

## Creative Actions

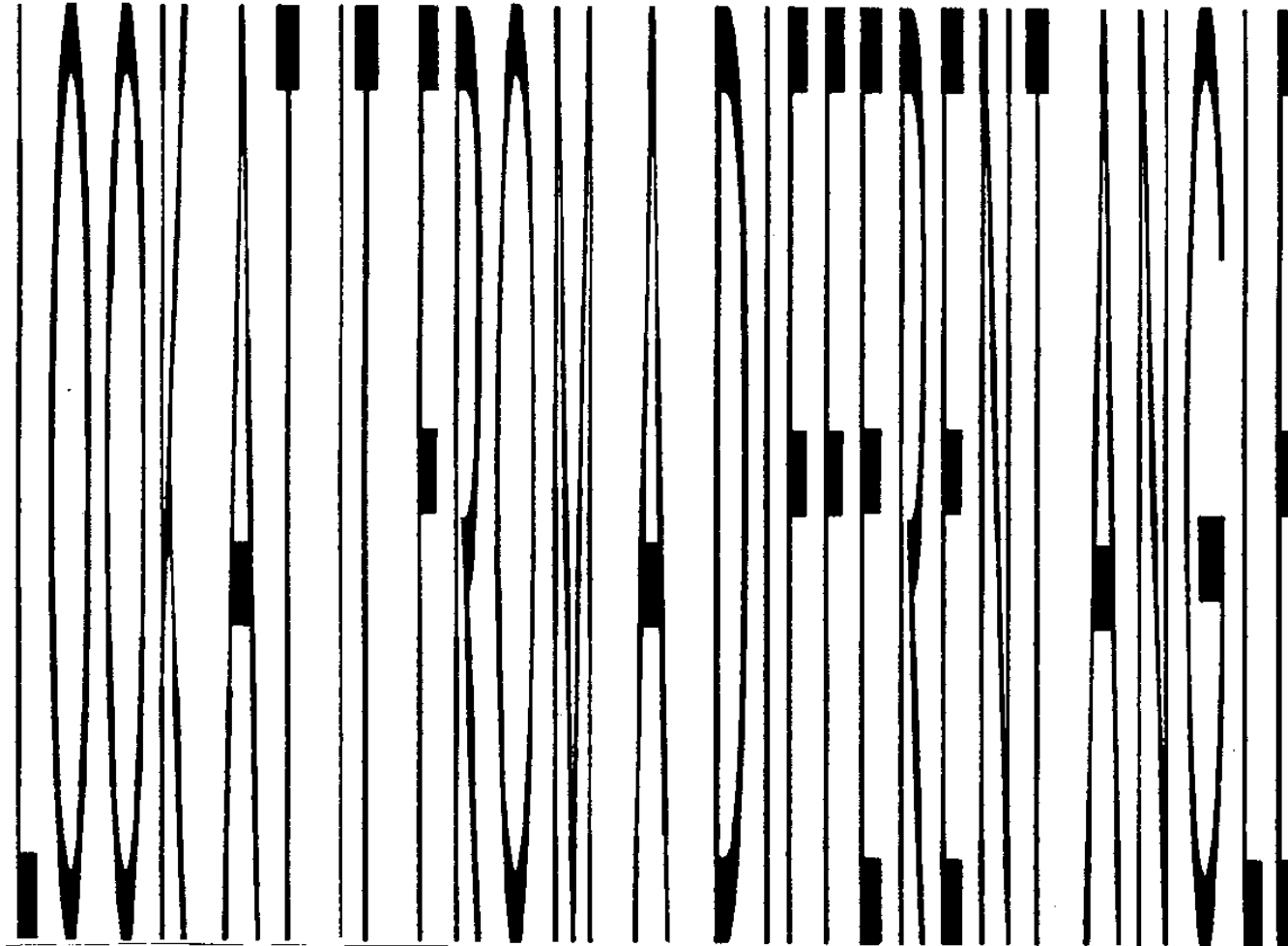
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“Every act of creation  
begins with  
an act of destruction.”  
— Pablo Picasso

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## Perspective Is Powerful



## Putting It into Practice

### Individually, reflect on:

- A challenge that you are having in the workplace that has you stuck
- Use the tools that you learned today to come up with practical solutions to the challenge



# What Questions Do You Have?





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Thank you for your attendance and participation!

