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

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.

Benefits of Critical Thinking

- Think independently
- Make better decisions
- Solve problems systematically
- Think more creatively
- Increase self-reflection
From Roadblocks to Breakthroughs

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.
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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
From Roadblocks to Breakthroughs

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

- Problem
- Failure
- Opportunity
- Pure creativity

Action
Creative Actions

“Every act of creation begins with an act of destruction.”
— Pablo Picasso
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?
From Roadblocks to Breakthroughs

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Thank you for your attendance and participation!