

WORKPLACE WISDOM NEWSLETTER

Surging Creativity

Every newspaper article, every news commentator, every newsletter topic begins with these thoughts, "I know we are in tough economic times..."

Yada....Yada....Yada!

Yes, I know it, too! But, how many TIMES do I want to hear it? I'm sick of hearing it and reading it!

It will be months before we right the global economic ship.
I am not in denial.
It's just OLD news. Let's MOVE ON!

So, what do we do when we're ready to MOVE ON?

My ship doesn't sail in the same waters as our economic geniuses, but I do have some thoughts about what we can do. "WE" means, really, ALL of us...to the very last person in our country.

I think we need to use our "RIGHT BRAIN" - the creative thinking side. We need to create new ways to do old things. "LEFT BRAIN" activity is linear and sequential - the step-by-step processing side. It will be our "RIGHT BRAIN" that enables us to dream up solutions. It will be our "LEFT BRAIN" that enables us to implement them.

I think we all agree that America is bogged down in an **Economic Quagmire!**

WE MUST HAVE A SURGE IN CREATIVITY!

"Surge" means a "tidal wave".

Ask yourself open-ended questions like:

- "What resources do I have that I can put to work for the good?"
- "What are some new ways of presenting myself or my ideas?"
- "What decisions will move me/my team/my family ahead?"
- "Where are new groups of people that can open up my thinking?"
- "What meetings or group activities will stimulate my thinking?"

TRY MIND-MAPPING!

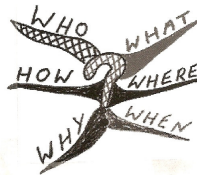
"If you're mind wanders, follow it around for awhile." - Jessica Masterson

This fascinating little exercise unlocks the brain's tendency to think step-by-step. It helps release creative thoughts linked to a central idea. You ENCOURAGE AND STIMULATE your brain to make connections between words that have a common theme. As the "MIND MAP" grows outward, your thinking is making leaps into "new mental territory".

SOME OF THESE LEAPS WILL BE WORDS, PLACES, OR IDEAS THAT YOU'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF BEFORE! It happens every time!

Here are some simple steps if you want to try it:

- Put the crystal-clear subject of your thought map in the center circle (idea).
- Draw 4, 5, or 6 branches that have connecting themes around your central idea.
- Write a word on each of these branches (all have to do with the central theme).
- Enlarge your thinking by drawing ancillary branches (like tree branches).
- Write a word or phrase that clarifies each branch (idea) that you draw.



What's the GOAL of doing this?

- With pencil and paper, you're using your right brain to create options.
- On paper, you can look at some options that you've NEVER looked at before.
- On paper, your ideas can be "crazy, silly, and wild" -- and can go "far out".
- You can process all of your plans or ideas, now that they're on paper.
- You can add to your mind map anytime you have a new thought.
- You wind up with a "Big Picture" around your central thought.

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**You see, I believe that most of us will
need to make adjustments through these times.**

**Yet, we can manage - and even thrive,
if we engage in creative, "out-of-the-box" thinking.**

How will we look for additional revenue streams?
How will we adjust our budgets?
How will we live "above the line"?
How will we demonstrate our competencies? Our skills?
How will we adjust if "Plan A" doesn't work? What is "Plan B and C?"
How will we have fun?
How will we relax?

We all have different Behavioral Styles!

None of us move through "CHANGE" the same way. Our uniqueness causes us to handle problems, people, pace, and procedures in VERY DIFFERENT WAYS. I've helped hundreds of people see not only their Style of Behavior, but also how it affects their job choices, their recreation, their communication, and their least favorite environments!

**Each of us,
with our own individual style,
needs to step up and create new paths
for ourselves, our teams, our companies, and our families.**

AMERICA has some adjustments to make in her thinking and valuing.

**With creativity, these times can produce
positive and lasting change in our country.**

**However, it will not be because SOMEONE SENT US A CHECK.
It will be because we**

seek creative solutions to our challenges .

THE COST OF THE "STATUS QUO" WILL BE HIGH!

***"If you always do what you've always done,
you'll always get what you've always got!"***

My friend, let's do something creative!

Get your pencil and paper out -- and plan your next move!

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