

Exploring Leadership

PROBLEM SOLVING: CREATIVE THINKING

Have you ever had an idea that felt different or unexpected? Creative thinking is the ability to see things in new ways and come up with original ideas. It helps us solve problems, adapt to change, and try new approaches when things don't go as planned.

CONVERSATION STARTER:

Do you think creativity is something you are born with, or something you can learn? Why?

Everyone has the ability to be creative. It's not something you are born with or without—it's a skill you can build. When you practice using your brain in new ways, your creativity grows stronger. Taking risks, trying new ideas, and looking at things from different perspectives helps you develop this skill over time. Even small shifts in how you think can lead to big ideas.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Practice creative thinking skills by generating multiple ideas
- Develop the ability to think in new and different ways

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Paper
- Pencils
- Timer

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

In this activity, participants will practice thinking creatively by generating as many ideas as possible.

- Tell participants they will have a short time to come up with as many answers as they can. The goal is to think of unique ideas and creative answers.
- Read a prompt and set a timer for 2 minutes.
- Have participants write down as many answers as they can.
 - Example prompts:
 - Name as many kinds of bags as you can
 - Name things that are hot
 - Name different kinds of "jacks"
 - Name things that are colorful
- After time is up, participants take turns sharing their answers.
 - If more than one person has the same answer, everyone crosses it off their list.
 - Each remaining answer earns 1 point.
 - (Optional: award a bonus point for answers that are especially creative or unusual.)
- Optional Challenge: Have participants create their own creative prompts and challenge others.

FACILITATOR TIPS:

- Encourage participants to think beyond obvious answers and take risks with their ideas.
- Remind participants that there are no "wrong" answers in creative thinking.
- Model creativity by sharing a few unusual or funny examples.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How did you come up with your ideas? What helped you think of more answers?
- Was it easier to think of ideas at the beginning or later? Why do you think that is?
- What made some answers more creative or unique than others?
- Did you ever hesitate to write something down? Why?

APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

- How can creative thinking help you solve problems in school or at home?
- When might thinking in a different or unusual way help you succeed?
- What is one way you could practice being more creative in your daily life?
- How can you encourage others to share their ideas, even if they seem different?



CONCLUSION:

The more you challenge your thinking, the more creative you will become. When you are willing to try new ideas and think differently, you open up more possibilities for yourself.

Creative thinking helps you solve problems, stand out, and see opportunities others might miss.

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