

PTHOPS005 Pathfinder Creativity Skills

PATHFINDER SPECIALIST AWARD



April 2010

WHAT IS *creativity*?

- The ability to use the imagination to develop new and original ideas or things, especially in an artistic context (Encarta World English Dictionary, 2009).
- Creativity is only limited by the individual being creative.
- It is unpredictable and undefined.

BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR

creativity

- Creativity must be in harmony with the commandments (Mt 5:18).
- Creative application for activities must value and be respectful of all participants (Mt 7:12).
- Being creative will make a difference in the life of others. Creative activities should respect and reflect Christian values of faith and grace (Eph 2:8).
- “Fix your thoughts on what is true and honourable and right. Think about things that are pure, lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise”
Phil 4:8.

SOURCES OF

creative ideas

- **Other people – discuss ideas, watch, listen etc.**
- **Resource books – ideas from various authors.**
- **Time – allow time for imagination and the development of ideas.**
- **Nature – allow God to speak through His creation.**
- **Other – TV, movies, documentaries etc.**

FOUR TOOLS FOR

creativity

1. Presentation Approaches

Different ways the message is communicated to the listener.

- **Storytelling**
- **Video clip**
- **Drama**
- **Skits**
- **Preaching**
- **Puppets**
- **Other – Statues (Human Sculptures), Mime, Postcards etc.**

FOUR TOOLS FOR

creativity

2. Conversation and Discussion Approaches

Different ways leaders involve others in the process of discovery.

- Interviews
- Panel discussion
- Discussion
- Debate
- Reporting
- Sharing
- Other – Forums, Case Studies, Buzz groups etc.

FOUR TOOLS FOR

creativity

3. Artistic Approaches

Practical ways that can be used to explore ideas.

- Drawing/painting
- Photography
- Video/Audio
- Sand/clay/plasticine molding
- Music
- Collage/murals/banners
- Other – Movement, etc.

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creativity

4. Written Approaches

Writing allows for expression and creativity.

- Poetry – rhyme, cinquain, haiku
- Re-writing Scripture
- Drama script
- Song lyrics
- Newsprint stems

THE *creative* PROCESS

THE NEED

- Creativity often begins due to a need.
- Look at the boundaries and expectations that exist:
 - Time restraints
 - Age group involved
 - Location, if necessary
 - Available resources
 - Expectations - outcomes

THE *creative* PROCESS

THE DEVELOPMENT

- Form a team – allow the opportunity to pool ideas.
- Brainstorm ideas – write all ideas down.
- “The Piggy Back Principle”.
- De Bono’s Six Thinking Hats.



“THE PIGGY BACK PRINCIPLE”

Encourages the formation of ideas from ideas.

- Ask questions – Why, where, when, who, what, how?
- Seek parallels – Is there something similar?
- Modify – Can we alter it to make it better?
- Magnify – Can we make it bigger or stronger?
- Subtract and divide – What if it was smaller?
- Substitution – What else? Who else? Where else?
- Re-arrange – Change the pattern, sequence, timing?
- Vice-versa – What about the opposite?



DE BONO'S "SIX THINKING HATS"

Six ways to look at things:

- 1. The White Hat – Facts, neutral, objective, information.**
- 2. The Red Hat – Emotions, intuitions, hunches, gut feelings.**
- 3. The Black Hat – Critic, analyst, logical negative.**
- 4. The Yellow Hat – Sunshine, optimist, logical positive.**
- 5. The Green Hat – Creative, growth, possibilities, ideas.**
- 6. The Blue Hat – Cool, agenda, process, organiser, overview, decision.**



WHAT NEXT?

Apply the Creative Idea

- **Pray about it**
- **Select the idea**
- **Write out a description/instructions, brief the team**
- **Assemble the resources needed**
- **Organise staff to make it happen**



WHAT NEXT?

The Event

- **Introduce the activity**
- **Outline any particular rules or guidelines**
- **Leaders take part/monitor as the activity takes place**
- **Be prepared to adapt as required**
- **Keep an eye on the time**



WHAT NEXT?

Evaluation

- **Were you happy with how it progressed?**
- **How did the group feel?**
- **How did the staff feel being involved in the development of the idea?**
- **Did it work as planned?**
- **What would you change?**

SUMMARY

“Discovery consists of looking at the same thing as everyone else and thinking something different.”

A Whack on the Side of the Head, Roger von Oech.

