

Creative Thinking and Problem Solving

Course Overview

Why is creative thinking so hard sometimes? The fact is the human brain tends to like routine and habit. So, when we're faced with unusual situations or problems that must be solved, our natural response is to do what we've done before. This can be an effective way of dealing with challenges, but it prevents us from being truly creative.

Despite this however, learning to think creatively isn't all that difficult. It just takes practice and a few proven tools and techniques that will allow you to take your blinders off and look at situations from new perspectives.

Thinking creatively will open a world of new possibilities.

Program Format

This is a 1-day program that can be delivered face-to-face or virtually.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course the participants should be able to:

- Apply the principles of creative thinking to daily work practices.
- Develop better creative thinking skills using left brain/right brain techniques.
- Employ tools and techniques to improve creative thinking and problem solving.
- Develop and conduct effective root cause analyses to identify the true cause rather than the symptoms of issues.
- Build a strategy for ongoing development of creative thinking skills.

Course Outline

Unleashing The Power Of Creative Thought

Look at the impact aging has on creativity. Studies show around 90% of 5year olds think creatively but only 5% of people over 20 think the same way.

Look at what hinders creativity and begin to create strategies to get around it.

The Creative Process

Some people are more natural right brain thinkers while others are more predominantly left brain. Neither is wrong, it's just a preference, but if you aren't a naturally creative thinker it doesn't mean you can't exercise your brain to develop that skill.

Assess your right brain/left brain thinking styles and look at some of the tools and techniques that can foster more creative thought processes

The Elements of Creativity

Examine the elements of creativity and develop the skills to implement these when you need to.

- Determination
- Fluency
- Helicopter thinking
- Mental nimbleness
- Originality

7 Steps to Solving Problems

Most people will solve problems by applying solutions they have used before, but creative problem solving engages a seven-step process that looks at alternative approaches. Learn how to use this seven-step process to create more innovative solutions to existing problems.

Conducting a Root Cause Analysis

Look at different ways to conduct a root cause analysis so that you can make more informed decisions that address the true cause of issues rather than just the symptoms.

Acting Quickly Without Sacrificing Creative Thinking

Being too quick to respond can lead to bad decisions, but so can taking too long. Using techniques like reflective urgency can allow you to:

- Identify your urgency trap.
- Focus on the right priorities.
- Avoid extreme tilts.

