



LLD – Tools for Thinking Creatively

Lodge Leadership Development Training

Session Length: 38 Minutes

Learning Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of what creative thinking is and its applications
- Add skills and concepts to an Arrowman's toolbox
- Develop a mindset to foster creative thinking

Required Materials

- Projector and screen
- Computer with PowerPoint/slideshow capabilities

Outline of the Session:

- Introduction
- Uncommon Solutions to Uncommon Problems
- Tools for Creativity
- Perspective and Mindset
- Takeaway Challenge

Trainer Preparation:

Thoughts to consider beforehand:

- When was a time where you had to employ creative thinking to solve a problem/innovate?

Trainer Tip: Included in this syllabus are various activities that you may employ to add on to the content. The material may be put into a PowerPoint and remain lecture style, or could be something completely different. In the spirit of creative thinking, take this syllabus and turn its content into whatever final product you desire.



Session Narrative

Introduction

5 minutes

- What is creative thinking?
 - Ask the audience for their definitions of creative thinking
- According to Businessdictionary.com, the definition for creative thinking is defined as “a way of looking at problems or situations from a fresh perspective that suggests unorthodox solutions (which may look unsettling at first).
- Importance of creativity
 - Ask audience what they believe the importance of creative thinking is
 - Some examples of reasons may be:
 - Increase ability to adapt to changing circumstances
 - Promotes optimism in the Lodge
 - Develops personal initiative
 - Potential for more productive meetings and programs
- Outline the next three sections

Uncommon Solutions to Uncommon Problems

10 minutes

- Tell the audience to think of a time in the past where a lodge issue was addressed. Please write down or brainstorm:
 - What the issue was
 - What method was employed as a solution
 - Where was the inspiration from the idea received?
- Discussion on how solutions are deliberated in the Lodge:
 - How are topics normally addressed at meetings?
 - Are all ideas considered equally?
 - Do you feel that many opportunities are given to communicate a new idea?
- Reflection on current system:
 - How well do you believe the current Loge system fosters creativity?

Tools for Creativity

10 minutes

For this section, visual aids are crucial, as much information about different “tools” will be shared to the audience

- Mind Mapping
 - A diagram used to visually organize information. Often seen as a central word or bubble with ideas branching out of it. Refer to appendix for more information and visual examples
- Six Thinking Hats
 - The six thinking hats are a system of productive thinking developed by



Edward De Bono is his book *Six Thinking Hats*.

- o Refer to PDF in appendices for detailed information on the six thinking hats and their applications.
 - Possible activity: Separate out the group into six different groups and assign each of them a “hat.” Pose a hypothetical problem to them and let each group come up with a solution based off the perspective of each of the “hats.”
- Checklist
 - o A checklist is going back to the basics, but a lot of times simple methods work. By compiling a basic list of the needs for a project, you can approach the project by tackling potentially overlooked parts, and breaking apart a seemingly grand task allows for more productive planning overall.

Perspective and Mindset

10 minutes

This section will speak to how to view issues from a variety of perspectives and put your brain in a more flexible state of mind. This is key to fostering creativity.

- Ways to get as many perspectives as possible on the issue
 - o Communicate! Speak with all members at a meeting and collect their take on a topic or issue.
 - o Do some research beforehand about the issue and anything that has been written about it.
 - o Play the devil’s advocate, speaking up for an unpopular opinion - even if you are opposed - may spur more people into the conversation and bring out more ideas.
- The mindset
 - o Counterfactual thinking
 - Counterfactual thinking literally means “contrary to the facts” and it is when one thinks about a past that did not happen, or asking the question “what if?” An example would be if you are in a situation where you are trying to improve a Lodge Banquet Program after a not quite successful one. Make sure when holding counterfactual thinking sessions that you remain positive, and use these thoughts as ideas for improvement and areas to expand, as opposed to relishing in failures.

Takeaway Challenge

3 minutes

Please take out your notebook and pen. For the final three minutes, think about an issue your Lodge has been working to alleviate. Come up with a completely different solution to said issue that your lodge has never done before. During your break time later today, share these with others in your chapter or lodge.



LODGE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

ORDER OF THE ARROW

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

- Six Thinking Hats PDF
<http://www.sustainablecommunities.vic.gov.au/files/6ThinkingHatsHandout.pdf>