

# HOW TO DEVELOP AND HARNESS CREATIVE THINKING



Every business, organization and team should formalize creativity and make it part of their everyday business activities, like planning. **To start:** Schedule a weekly creativity session. Pick one problem. Use the Provoke, Challenge, Solve technique to find a solution.

## Provoke, Challenge, Solve

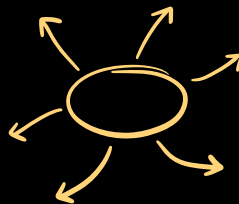
Use this technique as a starting point to formalize creativity in your business.

- Provoke**
  - Select a problem and describe it.
  - Pick a random starting point to start from.
- Challenge**
  - List all assumptions that lead to that point.
  - Challenge validated assumptions.
- Solve**
  - Explore alternative solutions
  - Test and evaluate

## Mindmapping

### Start in the middle

- Select a central idea
- Put it in the middle



### Brainstorm associations

- List out all possible associations
- Put them around the central idea
- Connect it with lines

### Expand the branches

- For each branch, list associations
- Put them around the branch
- Connect it with lines

## Inversion Thinking

“All I want to know is where I’m going to die, so I’ll never go there.”

- Charlie Munger

### Master Inversion Thinking

- Identify the goal
- Ask: What do I have to do NOT to achieve that goal?
- Do the opposite.



## Role-Playing Technique

Use this technique to understand how others perceive and navigate the real world.

**Imagine a scenario** where you take on the role of your customers in a specific situation.

Answer these questions:

- What do you think and feel right now?
- What do you see and hear?
- What do you know and assume?
- What do you say and do?

Think &  
Feel

See &  
Hear

Say &  
Do

Know &  
Assume

## SCAMPER Technique



### Substitute

What can we substitute to make this different or better?

### Combine

What if we combine this with another alternative?

### Adapt

How can we tweak this to make it work in a different context?

### Modify

What if we change the color, size, shape, or other attributes?

### Put to another use

How else can this be applied or repurposed?

### Eliminate

What if we take away certain components?

### Reverse/Rearrange

What happens if we change the order of tasks?

## 10 Principles of Creativity

**Embrace Fear.**  
It means you are out of your comfort zone.

**Don't be afraid to ask why.**  
Understand the purpose and mission.

**The audience is the hero.**  
Customers, users, and clients are heroes.

**Own it.**  
Your ideas will thrive if you own them.

**Build a story.**  
Wrap your idea in a story.

**Sometimes, say no.**  
Not everything is going to work out.

**Challenge assumptions.**  
Challenge existing ways of doing things.

**Embrace optimism.**  
Use the “Yes, and...” method to explore.

**Ask why five times.**  
Get to the root of the problem.

**Cultivate a beginner mindset.**  
Be curious, ask questions, explore.

Find this valuable? Follow me, **Terry Danylak**, for more.

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