

Critical Thinking and Creative Problem Solving - 3 Days

Making Better Decisions

Course 284 Overview

- You Will Learn How To**
- Make better decisions through critical thinking and creative problem solving
 - Adapt to different thinking styles in group and team environments
 - Recognize and remove barriers to individual and group creativity to foster an innovative work environment
 - Systematically analyze a target problem
 - Present your ideas clearly and concisely for maximum stakeholder buy-in
 - Transform your creativity into practical business solutions
- Course Benefits** Successful organizations recognize that critical thinking and creative solutions to problems significantly enhance business potential. Today's decision makers must use a variety of thinking styles, methodologies and creative processes. In this course, you develop your skills as a critical thinker and problem solver. You learn to leverage your personal thinking preferences using tools and techniques based on cutting-edge technologies.
- Who Should Attend** Individuals at any level of an organization who want to apply creativity and critical thinking skills to their decision-making process.
- Workshop Course** Through a series of interactive small-group workshops, you gain practical decision-making skills using critical thinking and creative problem-solving techniques. Workshops include:
- Profiling your personal thinking style and the styles of others
 - Identifying personal and team roadblocks to success
 - Analyzing left- and right-brain characteristics
 - Leading through speaking in another style
 - Applying logical methodologies to transform a range of creative options into supportable decisions
 - Preparing a framework to present your decision
 - Developing your personal decision-making toolkit

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Course 284 Outline

Introduction

- Balancing people, processes and tools for optimal decisions
- Business drivers that demand creative problem solving
- Deciphering critical thinking

Leveraging Personal Thinking Styles The Herrmann Brain Dominance Instrument (HBDI)

- MacLean's Triune Brain Theory
- Assessing your preferred approach to thinking
- Leveraging whole-brain thinking
- Identifying left/right-brain dominance

Analyzing personal preferences

- Identifying your own natural brain dominance
- Determining nondominant approaches

Managing thinking preferences

- Avoiding quadrant bias
- Bridging opposing styles
- Predicting coworker profiles

Unleashing Your Creativity

The creative environment

- Setting the creative stage
- The power of positive communication
- Identifying elements that stimulate creativity
- Eliminating barriers to innovation

Group creative thinking

- Brainstorming options
- Challenging assumptions
- Dispelling personal and corporate myths

The iterative mind

- Moving between quadrants
- Valuing nondominant preferences
- Stretching outside your personal style

Recording the creative process

- Drawing mind maps
- Chart writing

Solving Problems Using Analysis and Prioritization

Systematic approaches to problem solving

- Defining criteria

- Focusing on outcomes
- Leveraging left-brain thinkers
- Applying questioning techniques
- Deconstructing problems using stair-step techniques

Analyzing the creative process

- Identifying business-critical ideas
- Categorizing, prioritizing and purging

Avoiding analysis paralysis

- Overcoming the "It won't work here" mentality
- The Five Monkeys Syndrome or "But we've always done it this way"
- Analyzing for outcomes, not solutions

Applying analysis models

- Situation assessment
- Decision analysis
- Problem evaluation

Translating Creativity and Analysis into Practical Application

Organizational politics

- Recognizing the workplace culture
- Maintaining outcome-focused goals

The influence of decision-making styles

- Recognizing your own blind spots
- Self-awareness and self-regulation
- Forming a coalition with style opposites

Deploying your decision

- Clearly expressing analysis results
- Ensuring organizational benefit
- Guaranteeing maximum buy-in

Putting It All Together

Integrating your solution into the business

- Creating a whole-brain presentation
- Strengthening your nondominant position
- Adjusting communication to thinking styles
- Transforming confrontation into communication

Continuing your development

- Conducting self-checks
- Being persistent: a key trait of successful creatives
- Mapping thinking skills to your business

Your Personal Decision-Making Toolkit

- Your personal thinking style
- Your stakeholders' styles
- Flexing to colleagues' styles
- Committing to your Personal Action Plan
- Checklists for success