

On the Spot Thinking ...



Purpose: To encourage quick, on the spot thinking. This skill is important whether you are manager dealing with a time sensitive problem or an employee dealing with a customer service issue. This is also a great activity to exercise the brain before brainstorming or a team project.

Preparation: Find one easy to pass object (i.e. a book, an eraser, a ball)

Instructions:

1. Have group stand in a circle.
2. Hand one person in the group the selected item (a book, an eraser or a small ball)
3. Ask the group pass the item around the circle with their eyes closed
4. You (the facilitator) - will periodically ask the group to stop and open their eyes
5. Whoever is holding the object when you say "stop" will then be asked to name 7 items in a particular category. They will have either 25 seconds to do this - or if the group is larger enough (15 or more people), they will have to name the 7 items before the item can be passed around the circle and back to the originator. You can do this multiple times for a variety of categories. Some categories to consider might be:

- 7 Films with one word titles (i.e. Jaws)
 - 7 Famous people with one word names (i.e.: Madonna)
 - 7 Sports teams named after animals
 - 7 Breeds of dogs that grow to 50 lbs. or over
 - 7 types of Candy without chocolate
 - 7 Presidents from the 20th Century
- And the list goes on... be creative.

Debrief: Ask group:

- What was hard about thinking on the spot?
- How did you feel when you were "on the spot"?
- How does this exercise relate to the work you do or the type of business you are in?
- What types of techniques or approaches can you use to improve your "on the spot thinking?"

Exercise Provided Courtesy of Goldin Leadership Group



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