"LOOKING FOR THE SECOND RIGHT ANSWER"

CO2 TRAINING

Facilitator: Chaplain Joe Hughes

"If I ran a school, I'd give the average grade to the one who gave me all the right answers, for being good parrots.

"I'd give the top grades to those who made a lot of mistakes and told me about them, and then told me what they learned from them."
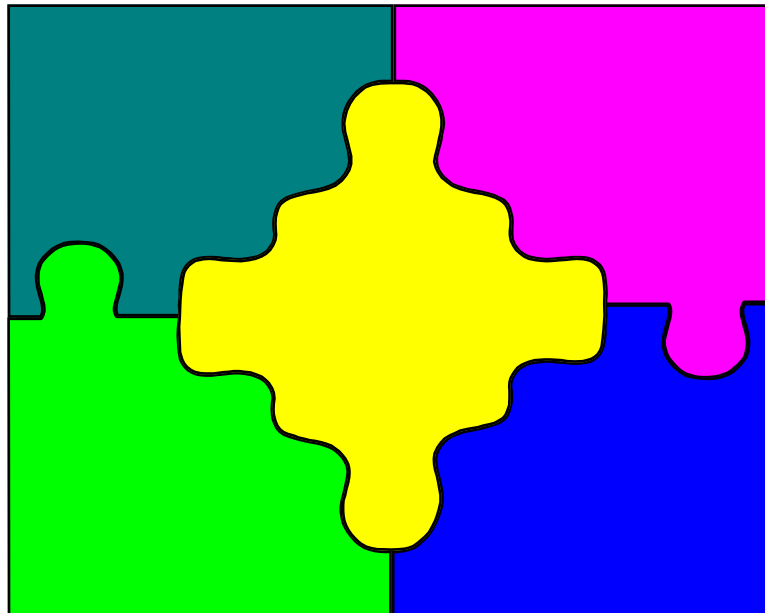
-Buckminster Fuller

"Nothing is more dangerous than an idea when it is the only one we have."

-Emile Chartier

CREATIVITY IS……

- Being able to look at whatever else people are looking at…and think something totally different.

- The ability to rearrange old patterns into new ones; to combine two ideas in a way that no one has ever done before.

- **REALITY doesn't always cooperate with our ways of thinking.**

- **LIFE is more ambiguous than that, and in fact, there are many right answers…depending on what you are looking for.**

"People try to avoid problems by acting on their first impulse rather than by trying to discover alternate solutions."
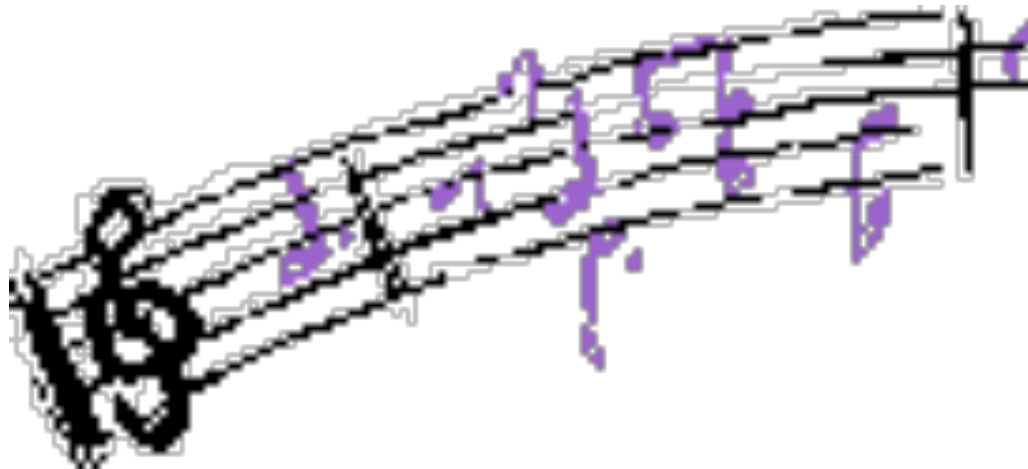
-Roger Von Oech

DANGERS TO IMPULSIVE PROBLEM SOLVING:

1. Acting on the <u>first</u> right answer limits us to one course of action, while discovering other possible solutions creates multiple possibilities and increases flexibility.

2. **An idea or a solution is best understood in the context of other ideas. If we have only <u>one idea</u>, we can't compare it to anything else, so we don't know its strengths and weaknesses. In this way, ideas are like musical notes, which have meaning only in relationship to other notes.**

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PROBLEM

(When you come up with an answer, deliberately change your point of view and come up with another answer. After you do that, look for the third right answer. In truth, there are many).

Add one line to the Roman numeral eleven and end up with the number ten.

XI

(Now think of two other ways to do it).

•**The most obvious solution is to add a fraction bar:**

$$\textcolor{red}{X/I}$$

(Ten divided by one is ten)

•**Crossing the one:**

$$\textcolor{red}{X\!\!\!-\!\!\!I}$$

•**Ten plus nothing is ten or drawing a horizontal line through the figure:**

$$\textcolor{red}{\overline{XI}}$$

This makes VI and IV (upside down), together they make ten.

•**Or drawing a horizontal line beside the figure:**

XI-

When this is turned sideways, it becomes X/I, which is ten.

The solutions shown are just some of those that involve the use of a straight line. However, the problem statement was: "add one line…" with no qualifications as to the shape of the line, it would be an unwarranted assumption to try to solve this problem with only straight lines.

As long as we produce a mark with just one sweep of the pen, without lifting the pen from the paper, it produces one line. With this in mind, the following solutions are permissible:

- A proofreader's deletion mark:

$$XI$$

- Ten times the square root of one is ten:

$$X\sqrt{I}$$

- Ten times one is ten:

$$TenXI$$

- A DOT between numerals like this indicates that you are multiplying, hence, ten times one is ten: $X \bullet I$

•Life is bewildering for many of us. Our problems can become so perplexing that they often mystify us. Even everyday living in our modern time can be puzzling.

•**Perhaps simplicity has to do with adherence to truth. Perhaps it will always be a constant search, a direction in which we are hopefully moving.**

- **SIMPLICITY** does not necessarily mean easy to understand.

- **SIMPLE** means there are no hidden or double meanings.

- **SIMPLE** is saying what you mean.

"Where there's simplicity words can be taken at face value.   One says what one means and means what one says."

-Albert Day

Simplicity means there's no "joker" hiding in the language to nullify its obvious intent.

Very few people know that Henry Ford did **not** plan to go into the automobile business, but rather into the locomotive business. His first creative exploit as a youth was to build a steam engine.   His life's aim was to make railroad equipment.   Not until he was nearly 40 years old did he set his goal on making passenger cars.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR FINDING THE "SECOND" RIGHT ANSWER:

- **Change the way you ask questions.**

- **Play with your wording of the question to get different answers.**

- **Solicit plural answers.**

- **Instead of phrasing the question so that people look for "the" right answer, train yourself to ask "what are the answers" or "what are the results that you are looking for".**