

Seeing the Point

An intriguing puzzle to highlight the value of seeing things from new perspectives



'Seeing the Point' is a quick (typically 15 minutes) and simple activity to include in a workshop about creative thinking or creative problem-solving. It is a short individual or small group activity (up to 16 people) that explores some of the thinking skills that enable us to break old patterns and establish new ones. It makes an excellent introduction to any training around innovation.

It offers an excellent opportunity to have individuals become more aware of the limiting beliefs that they carry into problem-solving processes. It can be used to explore the way in which a sudden insight or a complete change of perspective may offer a solution to a problem that appears, at first sight, to be impossible. It also offers a visual metaphor of diversity - more can be achieved when all the colours are mixed than when they are separated!

Sometimes a powerful learning point can be illustrated in a very simple way. 'Seeing the Point' is not a complex task but it does require an ability to 'switch' thinking styles. Sometimes an individual sees the solution very quickly and applies an intuitive approach to problem-solving. At other times, the problem seems insurmountable.

The group of three pictured right worked for 15 minutes without resolution as they were unable to explore new ways of seeing the problem. When a colleague joined them with a fresh perspective, the problem was resolved almost instantly. The response was, "How did you do that? You must have known the solution in advance!"



'Seeing the Point' is also one of a range of activities used in the RSVP Design 'Breakthrough Thinking' workshop. It supports the learning from the 'Challenging Assumptions' puzzle and 'Innovation Images' that offer similar insights into innovative thinking. It is supplied with four sets of re-usable set of components and a set of trainer notes and suggestions for use.

Grouped with other creative thinking tools, 'Seeing the Point' builds practice in being able to see the world differently. In addition, the completed puzzle is a visual representation of 'doing more with less'. By aligning the given resources correctly, the result is significantly more than would seem possible from the individual components parts.

- Use multiple sets as a 'table-top' warm-up at a conference.
- Use them as a mental warm-up before embarking on a serious problem-solving meeting.
- Build this activity into a multi-task team project: can they find the right people, and the right thinking styles, to overcome the problem?
- Demonstrate in a memorable way the concepts of 'doing more with less', 'diversity' and 'synergy': the power of teamwork and alignment in achieving results.

To add SEEING THE POINT to your resource library: