



Thinking Outside the Box

LESSON

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME

Participants will think about how to solve different kinds of non-familiar problems in both conventional and innovative ways.

MATERIALS

Move That Boulder worksheet, writing utensils

AGE ADJUSTMENTS

This lesson is appropriate for all age levels.

Lesson Plan

Introducing the Lesson

- Have a conversation about the following questions:
 - What does it mean to think outside the box?
 - How can thinking outside the box help us solve problems?
 - What are the benefits of thinking outside the box?



What if a pair can't think of 10 ideas?

Experiencing the Lesson

- Have each participant find a partner to work with.
- Give each pair a Move That Boulder worksheet.
- Give each pair 20 minutes to try to come up with 10 ideas for how to complete the task stated on the worksheet.
 - If participants get stuck, encourage them to think outside the box to come up with creative solutions.

Closing the Lesson

- Have each pair come up with three to four ideas from their list that they think are unique and won't be on anyone else's list.
- Let each pair read their three to four ideas.
- While each pair reads, have other pairs raise their hands if they also thought of the idea that is being read.

After the Lesson

- Look for challenges that the group will face that require out of the box solutions.
- Lead a quick brainstorm about out of the box solutions and then choose a solution to try out.

"That's okay! Just encourage them to think of as many as they can. The objective is to get participants thinking outside the box about creative solutions to problems. The actual solutions are not as important as the process of thinking creatively."



Further Exploration



- Have each participant think of a straight forward task - such as moving boulders across an open field - and write it down on a piece of paper.
- Collect and redistribute the pieces of paper so that everybody has a paper with a task that was written by someone else.
- Give participants 20 minutes to come up with as many ways as possible to complete the task on the paper they were given.
- Have each participant share the task they received and a few of the creative solutions they thought of.

Get Creative

- Place five basketballs on one side of the classroom
- Task participants with moving the basketballs from their current location to the opposite side of the classroom.
- Tell participants that they cannot touch the basketballs with their hands or feet, and that they can use any materials they can find in the classroom.
- Set a 20 minute timer and see how many creative ways they can come up with to move the basketballs.

Online

- To facilitate this lesson online, post the task from the worksheet in the chat and then put each pair in a breakout room to come up with their ideas.
- Have participants type up their ideas on a word document on their computer.
- Close the breakout rooms and then have each pair read out some of their unique ideas.
- Have other participants use the "raise hand" feature if they hear someone share an idea that they also wrote down.



Move That Boulder

You have five large boulders that you need to move from one side of an open field to the opposite side. The boulders are too heavy for one person to lift/carry alone. You have access to any materials you might want and can take as long as you need.

What are 10 ways you could move the boulders?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Worksheet for: Thinking Outside the Box