



21 Strategic Thinking Tools

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1. Brainstorming
2. Random Input
3. Problem Reversal
4. Barriers and Carriers
5. Stop – Start – Continue
6. POOCH – Decision making tool
7. Concept Map - A graphic organiser that "that begins with a central idea and proceeds to show related ideas as branches off of the center" (Lazear, 2003)
8. Mind Map - A graphic organiser is the "same as concept map except it primarily uses pictures, images, colours, designs and patterns to express concepts of ideas" (Lazear, 2003)
9. Consequences Chart - A tool to look at possible solutions to a problem and the probable flow-on consequences of each solution.
10. Six Thinking Hats (deBono) – A thinking tool to encourage lateral thinking
11. KWL - What I Know - What I Want to know - What I have Learned
12. Multiple Intelligences - Howard Gardner's theory that identifies 8 different intelligences
13. Whole Brain Thinking – Ned Herrmann's concept for considering four key dimensions of an issue. Left brain: Analytical and Organizational, Right Brian: Creative and Caring.
14. Structured Overview – Useful for categorizing ideas into headings and key points
15. PMI - Plus, Minus, Interesting chart. Used to evaluate an issue.
16. Ranking Ladder - Ranking ideas in a vertical ladder in order of importance.
17. Values Continuum – Ranking ideas.
18. SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats. Used to analyse and justify.
19. T Chart - Tool to list ideas or issues supporting or refuting an argument.
20. Venn Diagram - Tool for finding similarities and differences.
21. Y chart – Tool to brainstorm ideas based on what people see, feel and see. Helps clarify ideas and concepts.