

If it's the first Tuesday....It's Teachable Tuesday!



Happy Advent season to all of you! This month's teaching is about something that is not done a lot anymore: brainstorming. At the Central Deanery meeting in November, Kathy Bonner re-introduced the method of brainstorming to attendees and it generated a lot of great ideas!

The dictionary describes brainstorming as: *a group creativity technique by which efforts are made to find a conclusion for a specific problem by gathering a list of ideas spontaneously contributed by its members.*

Even though the technique was developed to do problem solving, it can be used to come up with ideas on how to improve something, grow something, change something. Want to try it? Here are some tips to get you started.

Be able to articulate the thing to be changed, fixed or improved. For example: how can we recruit more members? How can we retain our members? How can we increase attendance at meetings? How can we make our members feel valued?

Ready to start? Here are some tips to get you launched:

There are rules.

- No idea is a bad idea
- No criticism of an idea is allowed. For example: 'we tried that already' is an unacceptable response to an idea someone gives. Any response to an idea is unacceptable.
- No interrupting
- Every person gets a chance to contribute

There are rounds.

- Each person at the table should contribute an idea. Every person has the option to ‘pass’ one time, but only one time. Start with one person and then move to the next person, on to the right or to the left. One person at a time.

Try to go two rounds, maybe three if you don’t have a lot of people sitting at your table.

Have a facilitator for each table. The facilitator is the one who will correct anyone who is not following the rules. That person can also be the one who is the scribe, or the person who writes down the ideas. You might consider having someone who is not part of your organization or your affiliation do this.

Can’t get a facilitator? No problem. Just remember that when someone breaks a rule it will be up to those at the table to correct them. Get a large easel pad and some Expo markers. Rather than have each person ‘speak’ the idea, have the participants go to the easel paper, one at a time, and write the idea down. And remember, each person gets one ‘pass’ in case they need more time to think.

When you are finished with the second round, get all the ideas together, either from the scribe, or on the easel paper, and now is the time you can ask for clarification on an idea. But only clarification – no criticism!

Once you have all that creative brain activity written down, it will be time to get to work and figure out which one/s you want to try.

Most importantly, have fun with it!

Your ODCCW Leadership Committee wishes you a very blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!

