

Key Takeaways from Ellen Dolsen's New Dimensions in Creative Thinking Workshop

This workshop was a combination of creativity tools, exercises and references for further study. Ellen lecture with audience interaction, small group work and audio-visuals: a powerpoint, inspirational music, and a video. Recognizing that there is more than one way to accomplish something, she introduced a number of theories of creativity, including "Seven Strategies for Creative Thinking" by Jill Ammon-Wexler, Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats and Dewitt Jones' Everyday Creativity and she gave follow-up suggestions for club applications of these tools.

One exercise we did was to copy a drawing while looking at it upside down and then relating the challenges of the exercise. Much time was given to the "Six hats" theory which emphasizes the value and importance of the six modes of thinking: solutions, facts, feelings, creativity, control, obstacles to dealing with club issues. We were asked to categorize statements such as "We are getting bogged down in details" and "We could paint it or varnish it or leave it unfinished" by its thinking mode and we were asked to chronologically list the "correct" order of modes of thinking in coming to a group decision.

The workshop ended with a beautiful video by Jones, a National Geographic photographer who talked about the importance of changing lenses, changing perspective and the many good answers which can lead to the best solution by looking at many photographs of the same subject taken from different angles and perspectives.

This workshop had much audience interaction and excellent take-aways.

Respectfully submitted by

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