

PMI TECHNIQUE

(Plus - Minus - Interesting)

This tool is great for focusing attention, analysing and evaluating ideas efficiently. It can be applied to think creatively about a single idea, or to compare various ideas.

Pairs well with:

Any exercise that generates ideas, concepts or prototypes. It does not replace testing, prototyping or evaluation but it can help identify "deal-breakers" and elements that might benefit from further investigation.

Duration: 5 to 30 minutes

Ideal # of Participants: 3-6

Materials Needed: Worksheet, pens, paper, Post-It notes, timer.

Strategy

PMI can be a useful tool for beginning the retrospective or unsticking the group when discussion has gotten bogged down. The activity is designed to be short. Participants simply answer three questions in relation to a specific topic or idea provided by the facilitator -- listing what is positive, what is negative and what is interesting. PMI is designed to open up each participant to think objectively; fostering a well rounded and more creative perspective.

Desired Outcome

By targeting attention on what is positive, negative and interesting, PMI can generate insights and reveal unintended implications of a concept, option or proposal. The framework supports individuals and teams to escape their assumptions and think about aspects of an idea that are un- or counter-intuitive. In this way, PMI helps to de-risk ideas in early development before there is emotional ownership of any single concept.

"Many highly intelligent people are caught in the intelligence trap: they take a position on a subject and then they use their thinking skill solely to support that position. The more able they are to support the position, the less they see any need to actually explore the subject: so they become trapped into one point of view. The PMI formula forces a scan. Once a perception has been broadened in this way, the thinker cannot unthink what is now in front of them."

Edward De Bono, 2002

HOW TO USE IT

As an individual or a team; generate ideas for each section of the chart. Use sticky notes to record on the worksheet provided on the back of this card.

1. Consider the Plus points: In this step, list all the positive aspects that come to mind. Don't critique yourself along the way, simply record all the positive points you can think of.
2. Consider the Minus Points: In this step, list all the negative aspects that come to mind. Again, don't critique yourself. Simply record all the negative points mentioned.
3. Consider the Interesting Points: These are neither positive nor negative; simply points of interest you may want to investigate further.
4. Make your conclusion: Make your judgement once you have scanned and organised three important aspects: the positives, the negatives, and the interesting.

For more information:

<http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/PMI-plus-minus-interesting-retrospective>

ROUND ONE



ROUND TWO



ROUND THREE

