



STRATEGIC THINKING: THREE KEY SKILLS

How do you create the future for yourself or your organization? Chances are you are using some strategic thinking even if you don't call it that. Yet, when we take a moment to think about thinking, we can really amplify our strategic thinking.

So what is strategic thinking? Simply put, it is a way of thinking about situations, challenges, ideas, that includes in the big picture and with an eye on the longer-term implications. It is a powerful tool that resides within us. To enhance your strategic thinking, it will be worthwhile to assure that the following three skills are a natural part of how you approach, and think about, various situations both in your personal and professional life.

1. Use whole brain thinking. This means looking at situations from four major points of view:

Logic, which includes critical analysis; Organization of your thoughts through a step-by-step process; Conceptual, which means looking at possibilities, using your natural creativity, and assessing the big picture; Interpersonal, i.e. looking at situations from the viewpoint of how the people involved will be impacted. The Logic and Organizational thinking is your left-brain at work, while the Conceptual and Interpersonal thinking is your right brain at work.

2. Develop Strong Insight and Awareness. Look at the signals of a situation even if they are not readily apparent. This includes looking at trends from the context of situation. What are you hearing about the situation? What are you reading about it? What trends do you see? How do you validate that your thinking is on target? Alternatively, if it is something very new, how do you know you are going in the right direction?

3. Obtain advice and counsel to learn and grow. By utilizing others' thinking, such as a coach, mentor or even an informal advisory group, you will continue to expand your own thinking and decision-making. Remember that if you take their insight and put it in the context of the four major whole brain thinking styles in number 1 above, you will have a comprehensive assessment of that insight.

In today's fast paced and complex environment, many people don't take the time to consciously think strategically. We are too busy doing! By using these three simple tools, you will not only strengthen your thinking, but you will also interact with others in a rich and constructive manner, and, design stronger outcomes for yourself and/or your organization.

PO Box 1616 - Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Office: 856-802-9948 - Mobile: 609-206-0990 - Fax: 856-385-7180

www.strategicleadershipacademy.com - diane@strategicleadershipacademy.com