

Creating and seizing opportunities

ACE - Grow Your Skills



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Creating opportunities and making the most of them.

Description

Creating opportunities and seizing them. Life is partly makeable. The sequence of events is largely the result of your own actions. Success often seems much easier from the outside because we don't see the path to that success. This makes it seem like successful people are "lucky". However, there are things you can do to increase your chances of success. You can plant the seeds of your own success so that you can reap the benefits later.

Many people think that the choice process ends when they make their choice of university. However, this is certainly not the case. Even during your studies and career, you still have numerous choices to make and opportunities to take (or seeds to plant). With every choice you make, there are opportunities. Do you see the opportunities? Do you dare to take the chances and rise to the challenge? The outcomes of your choices determine your path. Each path leads to different possibilities where new opportunities lie hidden. Does a path not suit you? Then choose a new path. Dare to choose your own path, by doing this you create your own unique profile.

For example, take on an extra trade or try a new hobby. By doing this you invest in your network and develop your skills. Show the world who you are and what you have to offer. To learn how to create opportunities, it is important that you have a clear idea of what you want to achieve and to share that with others. It is also important that you dare to try new things and challenge yourself.



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Tips

To create opportunities, the following tips help:

- *Have an open mindset, see what is possible.*
- *Dare to make decisions. And ask for help in difficult situations.*
- *Substantiate your decision with arguments.*
- *Actually implement your decision.*



Assignment 1 *Brainstorm on paper*

Individual assignment to create new opportunities.

Have a question you just can't seem to figure out? Try this brainstorming technique.

Step 1: First, write down your question related to your search for new opportunities. An example would be: *Will I take an additional course to increase my chances in further studies?*

Question: _____

Step 2: Set a timer to 2 minutes. Write down as many answers (possibilities) as you can in those 2 minutes in the left-side column on the next page. Write down at least 10 answers (possibilities). Fantasize about what could be possible. You don't have to implement them right now and the page doesn't have to be full (yet).

Step 3: Then, on the same page, write down the opposite of all these answers in the right column. This helps to come up with even more ideas.

Step 4: Next, eliminate the answers and their opposites which are not actionable and won't help you create new opportunities for yourself at all.

Step 5: Go do something else for at least 15 minutes. This will clear your head for new ideas!

Step 6: Then, again taking 2 minutes, write down (other) possible answers. Also write down their opposites again and eliminate the answers which won't help you to create new opportunities. So, repeat steps 3, 4 and 5.

Step 7: Go back to doing another activity and then repeat one more time: write for 2 minutes, write their opposites and cross out again.

Step 8: After this, sit back and look at all the options on the left and make choices. What options are the most suitable for getting started on your question? Write this down below.

Does this help you learn to think out-of-the-box?

At first glance, it feels a bit vague, but the technique on which brainstorming is based has been around for centuries for a reason, and the effect will undoubtedly surprise you. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, so give it a try.

Answers

Yes, it fits well with the study I want to do!

No, I don't like the teacher.

...but

It's not going to help me with that study.

The subject is more important than whether I like the teacher or not.



Assignment 2 *Create a personal plan*

Creating your own opportunities.

After several years, you still work at that same company because the people there are so nice. But you notice that everything has become routine. There is no challenge anymore. You wonder if you can make this work interesting again or if something else is needed.

Step 1: Individually answer these four questions:

What are you good at?

What don't you like to do?

What can you do well and is currently not part of your job?

What five opportunities do you have to bring what you are good at into your job?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Step 2: Engage with the person sitting next to you. Share the answers to the questions to understand each other well.

Step 3: Together, answer the following question: what opportunities are there to broaden my mind? Write down below what you can do and what decisions you want to make. What arguments do you have?
