

Thinking on the Edge with de Bono

The following activities are based on de Bono's Direct Attention Thinking Tools. It is assumed that educators have a working knowledge of these materials and methodology, further that students have had some prior experience.

Activities

No. 1 Consequence and Sequel Tool

This tool identifies the consequences (positive and negative), of a plan action, rule decision or non-action.

Conduct a consequence and sequence report on the following ideas. Consider immediate, short term, medium and long term consequences.

- A large port develops at Barwon Heads
- An oil slick hits the reefs off the Bluff
- Turning over a rock on in the Marine Sanctuary and leaving it that way
- Banning people from the Marine Sanctuary
- Allowing fishing and collecting of creatures in the Marine Sanctuary
- Increasing the size of the Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary
- The effect of global warming on the Bluff reef and its creatures

No. 2 Others People's views

This tool helps to look at issues from other people's point of view.

List all the stakeholders who may have been involved in the decision to create Marine Sanctuaries in Victoria.

Divide students into groups and allocate roles. (For example, a commercial fisherman, politician, marine scientist, councillor, environmental activist etc.)

All the fisherman etc then form a group and discuss how they believe the sanctuaries will affect them. Each profession then reports back to their original group.

Using the same format explore the following topics. (Note: some are intentionally light hearted.)

- Residents of a rock pool discuss humans
- Reef residents discuss fishing
- A resort is planned for the top of the Barwon Bluff
- The Barwon Heads caravan park is to be closed and the land sold to developers, who intend to build a tourist venue based on the wonders of the reef.
- A developer wants to build an underwater viewing area in the Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary

No. 3 Alternatives, Possibilities and Choices

This tool is about actively finding alternatives.

First list the known, available and usual alternatives

Use creativity to generate new alternatives and possibilities

Possible topics:

- Design a non polluting boat
- Plan a campaign to educate the public about Marine Sanctuaries
- How to prevent introduced species being established in the Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary