



Session 4: Solution Generation & Screening

Overview Once you've identified a societal or environmental problem that you are passionate about solving, the next step is to generate a lot of possible solutions and then apply a set of screening criteria to determine the best one to move forward with. This session describes creativity techniques that may prove useful for generating possible solutions. It also discusses how to utilize screening criteria.

- Key Points**
- ❖ Generating solutions is an exercise in imagining possibilities.
 1. Brainstorming
 2. Reverse Brainstorming
 3. Brainwriting
 4. Attribute Listing
 - ❖ Once the best possible ideas are selected, it's time to screen them to pick the one that seems most promising. Utilizing a set of screening criteria is highly recommended for this purpose. Screening criteria describe solution characteristics that are either desirable or undesirable. Undesirable characteristics can be used to screen out ideas. Desirable characteristics can be used to screen in ideas. Applying screen out and screen in criteria will help you to choose your most promising solution.

- Discussion Questions**
1. Discuss times when students have used any of the idea generation techniques successfully or unsuccessfully.
 2. This session closed with the Kevin Michel quote, "In every moment of choice, you create a new destiny". Have the group discuss how they can see certain choices they've made that they now understand differently as creating positive (or negative) "destinies".

Additional Resources [Smashing Magazine article, "Using Brainwriting for Rapid Idea Generation"](#)

- Possible Assignments**
1. Take students through an exercise of idea generating and screening for a solution to a proposed a social problem (choose a Wicked Problem or one specific to your community).
 2. Use the Gurteen "[The Reverse Brainstorming Café](#)" as a specific tool for the same or a different problem as in #1.



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