

SCAMPER

SCAMPER is an acronym consisting of the initials of the following words: Substitute, Combine, Adapt, Modify, Purpose, Eliminate, Reverse. The tool was developed by Osborn and Eberle to support creative problem solving.

Problem solving is supported by a pack of cards. Each card contains thinking questions related to one area of problem solving. The questions help to collect and formulate suggestions and to structure creative problem solving.

The task with the cards is to select at least three cards that are considered relevant. Use the questions on the card to think through possible solutions.

Summarize your thoughts along the questions in group.

Substitute:

What else instead? Who else instead? What other processes, approaches? Which other place?

Combine:

How can the solution of the problem be combined to reinforce the original effect? Can we combine the solution with something else? For example, with existing processes?

Eliminate: Can we eliminate something? Which part of the processes and solutions is not really needed? Can the problem and solutions be simplified, minimized, condensed, or compressed? What's the real point? What is unnecessary?

Adapt: Does the past offer a parallel? What else is like this? What other idea does this suggest? What might I adapt for use as a solution? What might I copy?

Modify: How can the meaning, process and nature of the examined problem situation be changed?

Purpose, Put to Other Uses: Are there other uses for the solutions? Can we develop processes that can be used in other cases?

Reverse: What might be rearranged? Should we change pace or schedule? What other pattern, layout might I adopt?

References:

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“Organization in changing environment. Conditions, methods and management practices” (B. Domańska-Szaruga, T. Stefaniuk, eds.), pp. 100-109. Wydawnictwo Studio Emka, Warsaw. ISBN 978-83-64437-19-9.

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