

The following exercises are adapted from the book, *A Whack on the Head*, by Roger von Oech.¹

EXERCISE 1 Take some of your favorite pieces of common sense and roast it! See the 15 ‘common sense’ phrases listed below that are commonly used in our society.

To ‘roast it’ means you will prove these statements wrong! They may sound right and they may be accurate, but your project is to think of a situation when these statements don’t ring true or you can rewrite them altogether from a different angle and make them true in a new way.

The idea is to learn how to challenge information or statements that others might call true. Maybe it is true, maybe it isn’t but to be a great leader it’s important you decide for yourself rather than just assume what you hear is true.

Submit your answers to your home page in The Toolbox.



You might try some of the following:

1. Business before pleasure.
Example: If I enjoy someone pleasurable first, I'll be more relaxed and clear-headed for business.
2. Every cloud has a silver lining.
3. Every dog has its day.
4. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
5. Fight fire with fire.
6. Patience is a virtue.
7. Haste makes waste.
8. He who laughs last laughs best.
9. Curiosity killed the cat.
10. Beauty is only skin deep.
11. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
12. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
13. As you make your bed, so you must sleep in it.
14. Look before you leap.
15. Too many cooks spoil the soup.

¹ Chapter 7. Page 133



EXERCISE 2

Think of **5** rules you just can't agree with. Explain why they are irrational to you.

Now, the rule was probably created to solve a problem. Can you think of a better solution or compromise to the problem which the rule is supposed to address?

They can be your parent's rules, a teacher's, the government, a law, or even an 'unspoken social rule' within your circle of peers.

EXERCISE 3

Think of **5** things you or someone else does every day. Think very basic, such as pouring coffee, making cereal, driving to work, getting dressed, etc. Now, write five ways each action could be done differently. Is there a benefit to doing those tasks differently or is it just another way to get the same result?

EXERCISE 4 Write an Article about You or Your Business in The Daily News

Adapted from the book "Quantum Learning: Unleashing the Genius in You" by Bobbi DePorter with Mike Hernacki.

Write an article that is meant to be headline news in a local or syndicated newspaper. No obituaries! It should be about a pretend accomplishment you've made. Maybe you saved someone's life? Maybe you opened a new business? Maybe you just became the richest person in America? Maybe you just started a national non-profit organization?

While the idea is to be creative... you should make this a goal that is relative to one you'd truly like to accomplish, even if it is an exaggeration. The point is to help you visualize your potential and to think BIG!

ALTERNATIVE: We want you to really enjoy Get in the Game! If you dislike writing or find that it's the least effective way to your creative mind, then do this article in another way. Write a song, a poem or create a Power Point presentation following the same guidelines for this exercise.

Remember! These projects can be listed or referenced on your resumes and in your portfolios. Make 'em great!