

Linear And Nonlinear Solutions

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(Revised: 31. January 2000 by Nicola Neumann-Mangoldt)

FORMAT:

Dyad construction process
Duration: 60 minutes

PURPOSE:

To learn that we have access to the non-linear.

SETUP:

Chairs are set up first in the big circle.

INTRO / BACKGROUND: (10 minutes)

- Boxes always expand in the non-linear direction. We cannot get there from here and we must get there.
- Non-linear means:
 - unprecedented
 - unpredictable
 - unexpected
 - unreasonable
 - can be utterly simple
 - and it works!
- Humor is often non-linear.
- Relationship is an ongoing act of non-linear creation.
- Science is linear. Discovery is non-linear.
- Linear used to be excellence. Going From Point A to Point B by a straight line used to guarantee success. Now it is not quick enough. Other people are being more clever than this because they can go orthogonal. If we do not learn to go orthogonal too we will be extinct.
- How can you go from Point A to Point B shorter than straight line?
 - Go off the edge of the paper.
 - Go to Point C, which is also near Point B.

INSTRUCTIONS / PROCEDURE: (20 minutes)

- Divide up into teams of 2.
- Each team is to built two models using these supplies (paper plates, cardboard tubes, plastic drinking straws, balloons, tape, string, wooden skewers, etc.)
- These two models are to portray different modes of approaching the problem of solving problems.
- The first model is to show linear ways of approaching the problem of solving problems.
- The second model is to show non-linear ways of approaching the problem of solving problems.
- You will have 20 minutes to build your models.
- At the end of the 20 minutes we will have presentations about your models.
- Are there any questions?
- Please begin.

DEBRIEF: (30 minutes)

Presentations.

What did you learn during this experience?