

Habits of Mind



Remaining Open to Continuous Learning

Students' Handout

Name: _____ Class: _____

Habits of Mind

Remaining Open to Continuous Learning

'Insanity is continuing to do the same thing over and over and expecting different results.'

Albert Einstein

'Every person you meet - and everything you do in life - is an opportunity to learn something.'

Tom Clancy, Author

'Learning is not compulsory...neither is survival.'

W. Edwards Deming (1900 - 1993)

'Making mistakes simply means you are learning faster.'

Agor, Weston H.

Section 1 Definition

Intelligent people are in a continuous learning mode. Their confidence, in combination with their inquisitiveness, allows them to constantly search for new and better ways. People with this Habit of Mind are always striving for improvement, always growing, always learning, always modifying and improving themselves. They seize problems, situations, tensions, conflicts and circumstances as valuable opportunities to learn.

A great mystery about humans is that we confront learning opportunities with fear rather than mystery and wonder. We seem to feel better when we know rather than when we learn. We defend our biases, beliefs, and storehouses of knowledge rather than inviting the unknown, the creative and the inspirational. Being certain and closed gives us comfort while being doubtful and open gives us fear.

From an early age, employing a curriculum of fragmentation, competition and reactivity, students are trained to believe that deep learning means figuring out the truth rather than developing capabilities for effective and thoughtful action. They have been taught to value certainty rather than doubt, to give answers rather than to inquire, to know which choice is correct rather than to explore alternatives.

Our wish is for creative students and people who are eager to learn. That includes the humility of knowing that we don't know, which is the highest form of thinking we will ever learn. Paradoxically, unless you start off with humility you will never get anywhere, so as the first step you have to have already what will eventually be the crowning glory of all learning: the humility to know--and admit--that you don't know and not be afraid to find out.

Importance of lifelong learning in a fast-changing world

- Change is part of life. As we grow older, we change in various aspects of our life, for example, our roles and responsibilities change as we face new demands and challenges in our life.
- The world around us is constantly changing and these changes are taking place rapidly and globally. Technological advancement which has made modern living more comfortable and convenient, brings with it new knowledge and skills to be acquired.
- With change, there is an element of the unknown. This may cause us to feel uneasy and even helpless. In today's fast-changing and complex environment, it is difficult to stop change. But we can choose the way we respond so as to benefit from change. We can start by seeing change as offering us opportunities to develop and improve ourselves.
- Adjusting to change is a lifelong challenge as changes occur throughout our life span. To respond positively to change, we need to be lifelong learners who are motivated to acquire new knowledge, skills and attitudes at every stage in our lives. For example, while we are in school, we try to do our best in our studies to prepare ourselves for adult life, and when we become working adults, we need to continually pick up new skills so as to remain employable. Other reasons for lifelong learning include wanting to
 - meet the changing demands and expectations of new roles and responsibilities
 - keep abreast of changes
 - improve ourselves
 - fulfill our need to succeed
 - find solutions to problems
 - pursue our interests
 - increase our self-awareness and knowledge of the people and world around us
 - contribute to society

Continual learning helps us to prepare for, handle and manage change better in this fast - changing world.


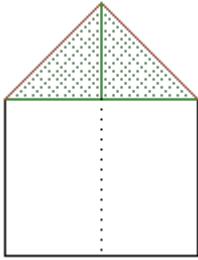
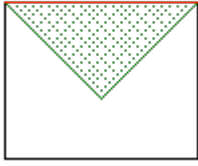
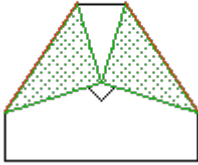
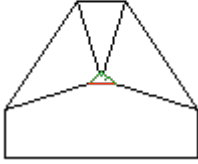
Some benefits of lifelong learning to the nation


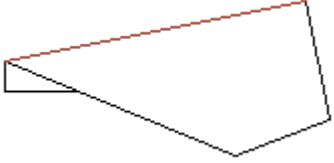
- Singapore's only resource is its people. Being a nation of lifelong learners will help Singapore survive in this competitive and fast-changing world. Some benefits of Singapore being a learning nation with a collective will to learn and improve all aspects of life include the following:
 - Creative, hardworking and enthusiastic students
 - Active, healthy and vibrant senior citizens
 - A disciplined, skilled and adaptable workforce
 - Innovative, daring and resourceful business leaders
 - Responsible, forward-looking and open-minded political leaders
 - An educated, well-informed and confident citizenry

There is no such thing as a lifetime job. This notion belongs to the past. The worker of today needs to wake up to the fact that times are changing, and that to remain employed, it is critical to continually learn new skills and upgrade. Knowledge is the key to lifelong employability. Workers gain by acquiring new skills, leading to better job prospects, security and salaries.

L1.1

Instructions to fold a paper plane

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fold a piece of paper in half lengthways. • Open it back out again. The crease makes a centre line to work with. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fold the top corners diagonally down and to the middle of the page. • The folded sections are triangle shaped and make a point at the middle. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fold the pointed triangular part down over its bottom edge. • The flaps must be on the inside. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the top right hand corner and fold it down to the middle of the page at a point 15 mm above the point of the triangular part. • Do the same for the top left hand corner. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the tip of the triangular part that pokes out from under the flaps from the last step. • Fold the tip up and over the flaps so that are held down. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fold the page in half lengthwise.• The tip that you folded in the last step must be on the outside.	 A diagram of a paper airplane fuselage. The fuselage is a rectangle with a pointed nose on the left. A vertical line represents the spine. A horizontal line at the bottom represents the wing. A small triangle is folded up from the bottom edge of the fuselage, with its tip pointing towards the right. A red line indicates the fold line for the wing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fold down the wings.• Make the fold at an angle to the bottom of the fuselage so that the wings rise up at the rear of the plane (as viewed from the side).• Open the wings out and push them up so that they tilt up (as viewed from the nose).	 A diagram of a paper airplane fuselage with wings. The wings are folded down from the bottom edge of the fuselage. The wings are tilted upwards at an angle. A red line indicates the fold line for the wings.

L1.2

"Every person you meet - and everything you do in life - is an opportunity to learn something."

Tom Clancy

KND Chart

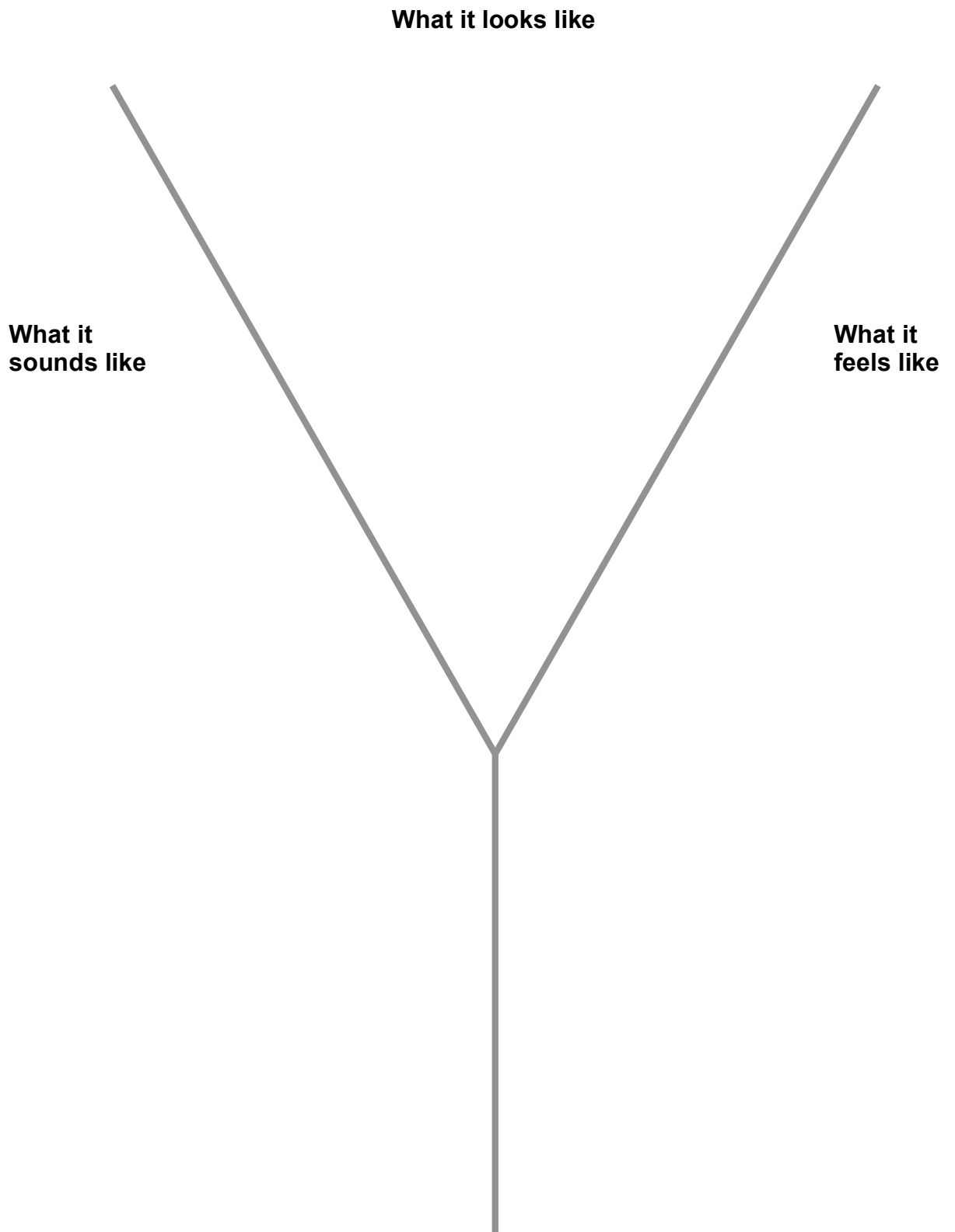
What we would like to learn: _____

Group members: _____

What I KNOW	What I NEED to know	What I need to DO

L1.3

HOM: Remaining Open to Continuous Learning



JOURNAL PAGE

Keep a journal for a week. Record new things learnt/changes/modifications/new approaches/innovations/etc.

HOM : REMAINING OPEN TO CONTINUOUS LEARNING	
Name : _____ [] Class : _____	
JOURNAL FOR THE WEEK beginning on _____ and ending on _____	
Date	Learning achieved
Reflection :	

Parent's Signature

Date