

## How to be a better thinker

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It’s hard to overstate the value of good thinking. Good thinking can do many things for you: generate revenue, solve problems, and create opportunities. It can take you to a whole new level--personally and professionally. It really can change your life.

Do you want to master the process of good thinking? Do you want to be a better thinker tomorrow than you are today? Then you need to engage in an ongoing process that improves your ability to think. I recommend you do the following:

1) *Expose yourself to good input.* Good thinkers are always on the lookout for ideas. They look for things to get their thinking juices flowing. They read books, review trade magazines, listen to speakers, and spend time with good thinkers. And when something intrigues them--whether it’s someone else’s idea or the seed of an idea they came up with--they keep it in front of them. They often put their thoughts in writing for reference later on in an effort to stimulate more good thinking.

2) *Expose yourself to good thinkers.* Spend time with the right people. Seek

out and choose to spend time with people who will challenge you with their thinking and their actions. Those who are constantly striving to grow and learn (not those who are biased and only want to argue or exert their will power over you--those people are typically not good thinkers--they are brainwashed radicals). The writer of Proverbs observed that sharp people sharpen one another, just as iron sharpens iron. If you want to be a sharp thinker, be around sharp people.

3) *Choose to think good thoughts.* To become a good thinker, you must become intentional about the thinking process. Regularly put yourself in the right place to think, shape, stretch, and land your thoughts. Make it a priority. Remember, thinking is a discipline. In fact some people put “thinking” into their daily schedules. Whether it’s an hour a day, half a day each week, one day a month, or quiet time with a cigar and some scotch on your porch, schedule time and a place to sit and think.

4) *Act on your good thoughts.* Ideas have a short shelf life. You must act on them before the expiration date. World War I flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker said it all when he remarked, “I can

give you a six-word formula for success: Think things through--then follow through.”

5) *Allow your emotions to create another good thought.* Don’t wait until you feel like thinking to do it. You must start thinking, then allow the feeling it may create to generate your emotions to feed the process and create mental momentum. Thinking that leads to good thoughts allows you to ride the wave of mental energy that spurs additional thoughts and more productive ideas.

6) *Repeat the process.* One good thought does not make a good life. The people who have one good thought and try to ride it for an entire career often end up unhappy or destitute. They are the one-hit wonders, the one-book authors, the one-message speakers, the one-time inventors who spend their life struggling to protect or promote their single idea. Success comes to those who have an entire mountain of gold that they continually mine, not those who find one nugget and try to live on it for 50 years. To become someone who can mine a lot of gold, you need to keep repeating the process of good thinking.

~ The End ~