

Force-Fitting

This tool encourages new possibilities to arise from unexpected connections.

Uses:

- ✚ When the group needs some fresh, novel ideas to stimulate possibilities
- ✚ When a group has difficulty moving away from the familiar, narrow perspective.
- ✚ When a group can benefit from some 'playful, wild' idea generating

Possible Applications:

- ✚ Create an original prop for our performance
- ✚ Create novel attributes for characters in our skit
- ✚ Combine materials to create an original costume for our main character
- ✚ Design new, unique features or mechanisms for our device

Steps:

1. State the challenge or problem.
2. Randomly choose one unrelated object or picture of an object.
3. Make ONE OR MORE connections between the selected object and your particular challenge or problem.
 - How might that object enhance your problem?
 - How might that object add a new, unexplored possibility to your problem?
 - How might the color, texture, material, size, use, sound, smell, or taste of the object change, add to, solve, or improve your problem?
4. Select a different object and force-fit with that object. Keep selecting different objects and generating ideas. If you select a particular object and have difficulty making connections to your problem after really trying to think of ideas, set that object aside and select another object.
5. Look over all of the new connections you have listed. Put a ✓ next to the ones you feel are promising possibilities that solve your problem in a new, novel, unusual way.

Force-Fitting Sample Worksheet

Problem/Challenge: How might we create a memorable character for our presentation

Item Selected	New Connections
Aluminum pull tabs from soda pop cans	Create a knight's costume by gluing tabs onto pajamas
	Gypsy with pull-tab Jewelry
	Alien with pull-tab antenna

Item Selected	New Connections
Balloon	Inflate balloons and connect them to a costume for Mr. Jelly Bean Jar

Item Selected	New Connections
Plastic bottle	Create a robot costume out of all recycled material

Item Selected	New Connections
Macaroni	Glue macaroni on Queen Pasta's dress to make it decorative
	Add curlicue macaroni for a scaly monster