

# Big Picture Thinking: Blue Sky Committee

*da Vinci Thinking*



## Blue Sky Activity: da Vinci Thinking

### What's "Blue Sky" Big Picture Thinking?

A Blue Sky Committee simply takes a breather from day-to-day or routine meeting-to-meeting thinking to consider the big picture. Rise above the routine and assume you are literally above, looking down on the routine activities and decisions. Take a fresh view. It's a terrific practice for boards and team leaders to use for annual planning and check-up time. If your organization is at a standstill or turning point, consider creating an actual "Blue Sky Committee" and give permission to dream big. If you are in a planning session, it's a great time to gather in small groups, take a walk-and-talk break in pairs, review flip charts, or just take a step back and reflect.

### da Vinci Thinking

Leonardo da Vinci wrote in a journal religiously. He wrote down all the questions he had about the world. It inspired all his inventions, design and research. How can you apply da Vinci's practices?

**What do you wonder "why" about?** For example:

- Why have we always done it this way?
- Why do our clients or constituents relate to us in this way?
- Why are we thinking "this way" at this time?

**What are you curious about? Use your natural curiosity as a strength.**

- Stay open to new ideas.
- Seek out new and interesting people and find out what they are doing and learning.
- Explore other's interests as a way to deepen relationships and understand motivations.
- Learn to do something new.

**Make a short list of questions you'd like to address:**

- In your organization
- In your community/neighborhood/field
- With your constituents
- With people whom you wish were your constituents

**Follow-Up Options**

If you are in a group, take your da Vinci Blue Sky thinking to the next level. In pairs, interview each other on:

1. What you heard in the meeting that rose to the top of the “interesting” list?
2. What did you hear today that makes you curious about exploring something else?

Bring your larger group back together and compare observations or new ideas. Are there common themes emerging?

*The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. ~ Albert Einstein*

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