

Unit #1 Decision Making / Lesson #5:

Decision Making Strategy Method

PURPOSE: The purpose of this lesson is to identify the five (5) decision making methods and how these impact the participant's decisions.

OBJECTIVE: Upon completion of this lesson, the participant will:

1. 100% of the time identify the strategy decision making model has having the following components:
 - A. Phase 1: - Defining the Problem and Who Has the Problem
 - B. Phase 2: - Gather Information
 - 1) Look at/for Alternatives (Positive & Negative)
 - 2) Predict Outcomes (Positive & Negative)
 - 3) Examine Risks
 - C. Phase 3: - Make a Plan
 - D. Phase 4: - Act on the Decision
2. 100% of the time consider one (1) decisions made today, which used one or more components/parts of the strategy method of decision.

PROCEDURE:

1. Read and consider the following:
 - A. The decision making strategy model is like a pyramid, in that as you establish a firm foundation, you can build upon it and in proportion to how broad and firm a foundation, this determines how high you can build your pyramid.
 - B. If you think of a narrowing pyramid consider the Information Gathering Phase completing the three (3) parts of this phase and then moving onto the two (2) remaining steps of making a plan and how you will act upon this decision.

However, nothing happens unless and until you starts with Identifying & Defining the Problem. We will discuss and work on this step more in the next lesson, but first you have to know this is the first and most foundational step in any decision making strategy.

As you think of a decision making pyramid, think of one or more of the decisions you need to make and how they model may be helpful to you to make these decisions in a very organized, calm and peaceful way.

The first step in a decision making strategy is identifying and defining the problem. Again, we will get into this more in detail in the next lesson. What is the problem. Who has the problem? Did you somehow create the problem. Is it your decision to make? What are the limits on the decision? What level of control do you have over the decision?

You may find as you move up the step in the pyramid to the information gathering phase and its three (3) parts, you may have to take a step back and reconsider the problem you have identified and perhaps re-define it. Albeit it may appear a step back, it is a step forward.

That's fine. That happens and is natural. If you're using the strategy method of decision making correctly, this will happen many times and is therefore a positive occurrence, if you find you have to take a step back and re-define the problem.

The second phase is gathering information that has three (3) tasks. The first task is looking at all of the alternatives, both positive and negative. The second task is predicting outcomes, both positive and negative. And the final task of your information gathering step is examining the risks and which risks you are willing to take. How can you minimize these risks?

The phase in strategic decision making is making a plan. We cover planning processes in greater detail in various subsequent modules, but here we will look only at simple plans, as they relate to a specific decision to be made. This is yet another reason why this decision making model, along with a few of the forthcoming education modules, are actually fundamentals to the even later topics we will cover and explore.

The fourth and final phase in a strategic decision making process is act or action. If you don't act on the decision you have strategically processed, you have then made a default decision to do nothing.

We will take each of these steps in the strategy method of decision in order and explain each and cite some examples for each.

2. Complete the following exercises:

A. Think of the five (5) major decisions you need to make and list them below, so that you can use these to go through the decision making model to see how well this may work for you.

1) Decision #1: _____

2). Decision #2: _____

3) Decision #3: _____

4) Decision #4: _____

5) Decision #5: _____

B. Briefly describe one (1) decision you have recently made and what were your limitations, your level of control over the decision and what method you used to make this decision.