

The Feel Tank

Mayra Porrata



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Emotions are an advanced intelligence.

One day, a soulful group of think tank thinkers were discussing the latest findings for a report-- but something felt strange, it didn't add up.



The thinkers worked for one of the most intelligent think tanks in the land MITTT, INC. but even they had started to wonder — actually ponder things they had never thought about.

This day was different. This day, one of the newest and brightest team members asked a strange question out loud.

A black metal signpost is mounted on a brick wall. It features a circular sign with text. In the background, a city skyline is visible under a clear blue sky, with a prominent white skyscraper (the Transamerica Pyramid) standing out.

MITTT, INC.

**MOST INTELLIGENT THINK TANK THINKERS
NO THOUGHT ESCAPES US**

“If this report is supposed to shape public policy and shift how citizens feel, shouldn’t we get a baseline on how they actually feel?”



“No, no, that’s a waste of time—no one cares how anyone feels!”--- The client isn’t concerned with people’s feelings, only their opinion-- this isn’t kindergarten.”



“I don’t think most people know what we do—and how what we do is intended to change things that affect their everyday lives.”





“Dude, who cares. We don’t get paid to feel, we get paid to think!”

Another team member added:

“Emotions aren’t real—they’re far from empirical—anyone who talks about emotional intelligence is an idiot if you ask me.”

“How do you feel about idiots?”
a timid voice asked from the back of the
room.

Everyone stopped.

“I don’t feel anything about them—they’re
irrelevant to me”



No think tank meeting had ever gotten so out of hand, all on account of a feeling no one apparently had.

- One team member threatened to quit.
- One walked out of the room.
- One laughed uncontrollably.
- One started shouting insults.
- One tried to get everyone to focus.
- One tried to get everyone to calm down.



“Feelings aren’t real -- feelings don’t matter
in business....but now I’m guessing that
maybe we didn’t think this through.”



WE DIDN'T
THINK THIS
THROUGH

"I have a question for us to consider: Isn't data we collect -- the best practices stuff, subject to bias anyway?

Then why is asking someone how they feel about an issue be any different?

Chances are no one has ever bothered to ask citizens how they feel-- only what they think-- and thoughts are the most unreliable form of information."





Someone else
chimed in:

“Yeah, it’s literally
another data point.

If you ask me, at
least emotions are
fresher data-- and
may even be more
accurate, if we
know what or how
to ask.”

Then someone
finally said what
they were all
thinking.

“As of now, people
don’t have a voice in
what corporations
or governments do
to communities or
to them --- that’s a
fact.”

A heavy feeling came over the room.
Everyone looked unjoyful.
No one looked glad.

Admittedly no one had an answer.
No one really knew what to do.

But one thing was certain, no one
wanted to talk about why they felt sad.
They just wanted to think
and finish a report
which was now overdue.



The next day, the lead team member said:

“I thought a great deal about what I said yesterday-- in fact, I felt downright sad.

I didn't realize I was so angry and mad. I was wrong and want to apologize.”



Everyone just sat there, stunned—
they instantly knew and understood.

They knew that feelings matter and ignoring
them would undermine their recommendations.

No matter how many fancy references, without
real qualitative data and the wisdom of the
community, the report would be incomplete.



And that was the day the
Feel Tank was born.
The team brainstormed a name
and a logo right away.

They felt joyful, energized--
their creativity returned.

From that day forward, they vowed to
leverage community wisdom and emotional
intelligence in all their important work.

And eventually, all think tanks, corporations,
and governments in the land did the same.



Other works by Mayra Porrata

A Presidential Prayer

Unfinished poems (creativity)

Silence is alive (poetry)

Unmasking

Have you ever been here?

Honoring your grief

60 ways to know love (English & Spanish)

Until it happens to you (poetry)

52 weeks (journal)

Gratitude Yearbooks (journals)
(2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023)

All my mistakes

My True Feelings

The Workbook of Human Superpowers

GRATEFUL | 30-day self-care journal

People are like flowers

A Nighttime Trip to Planet NUF

Soul Friends

Wake Up Beautiful Girl

Lilly's Life

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think with your heart

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