

APC: Alternatives, Possibilities, Choices

APC is the process of deliberately trying to find alternatives.

In making a decision there may seem to be few alternatives, but a deliberate effort to find alternatives can change the whole situation. The APC is an attempt to focus attention directly on exploring all the alternatives or choices or possibilities - beyond the obvious ones.

In looking at a situation it is unnatural to go beyond an explanation which seems satisfactory and yet there may be other possibilities which may be even more likely if only an effort is made to find them. The most likely alternative is not necessarily the most obvious.

This deliberate search for alternatives applies not only to action but also to explanations. When an obvious explanation presents itself it is very unnatural to look beyond it to try and find other possible explanations. That is why it is useful to have a device which can take one beyond natural inclinations

The APC is an antidote to emotional reaction. Whenever a student seems to be looking at something in a rigid way he/she can be asked to do an APC. If the student can do this then the result is either a change in view or an adherence to the original view now, however, due to preference. APC can be applied to other subjects.

As in the CAF lesson the emphasis in teaching is on what has been left out. That is to say the groups try to find different alternatives and choices for the same situation to demonstrate that even when you are sure that there cannot be any other possibilities you may still find some if you make a deliberate effort to look for them. As with the CAF lesson it is all too easy to suppose that one naturally looks at all possible alternatives anyway - but it is not true. To go beyond the obvious and the satisfactory possibilities one needs a deliberate device like the APC.

APC = Alternatives, Possibilities, Choices:

When you have to make a decision or take action, you may at first think that you do not have all the choices at your disposal. But if you look for them, you may find that there are more alternatives than you thought. Similarly in looking at a situation there are always obvious explanations. But if you look for them, you may find that there are possible explanations that you had not thought of.