

FIP: First Important Priorities

In most of the other lessons, the effort has been directed towards generating as many ideas as possible:
as wide a PMI as possible;
as many factors as possible for a CAF;
as comprehensive a C&S as possible;
all the different objectives, etc.

FIP is a crystallisation of the process of picking out the most important ideas, factors, objectives, consequences, etc. Obviously some of these ideas are more important than others. The purpose of FIP is to restore the balance in a deliberate manner.

If you try to pick out only the most important points from the start, you will be able to see only a small part of the picture. But if you start by trying to see as large a picture as possible, then your eventual assessment of importance will be much more valid.

Like the PMI, the FIP operation can be used in subsequent lessons or in other subject areas whenever some assessment of importance is required. If students turn up with ideas which are valid as ideas but not of great importance, they can be asked to do a FIP on the situation.

FIP is a judgement situation and there are no absolute answers. What one person believes to be most important another person may place far down the list of priorities.

The intention of the lesson is to focus attention directly onto this assessment of importance. Once you can do a FIP, then you are free to generate as many ideas as you like. If you cannot do a FIP, then you are only able to consider ideas that have an obvious importance at first sight - and you may well never get to consider any other ideas at all.



FIP = First Important Priorities:



After you have thought of all the ideas, and goals, and consequences, you will have a big picture of the problem or issue. Now you need to pick out the most important points, because these will be your priorities, and you need to pay more attention to these points than to some of the less important ones.