

Habits of Thinking

a routine of behavior repeated regularly that tends to occur subconsciously

A practitioner in habits of systems thinking...

Recognizes that a system's STRUCTURE GENERATES ITS BEHAVIOR.*

*waterscenterst.org

No matter what the structure is, whether created by you or for you, there is always an underlying set of behaviors generated because of that structure. If the behaviors are not optimal, does the problem lie in the person(s) with the less-than-optimal behavior or with the structure generating the behavior?

SCENARIO #1

You want your students to tell or write a story about two friends who discover a treasure. How would the following structures impact the behaviors in the story?

- Main characters are a dog and a cat
- Main characters are a boy and a girl
- Setting is the American Revolution
- Setting is on the Titanic
- The treasure is a baseball card
- The treasure is an African tribal mask

SCENARIO #2

You give your students connecting rods and ask them to build a tower. What is the impact on the structure if you restrict the shapes used to construct the tower to the following?

- Only triangles can be used
- Only squares can be used
- Only hexagons can be used
- Only circles can be used

SCENARIO #3

You are considering a classroom project that has choices for different materials that can be used by students to complete the project. In what ways do the choice of materials impact the behaviors related to the management, completion, and display of the final project if the material chosen is...

- Crayons and paper
- Construction paper, glue, and scissors
- Watercolors
- Paper-mache and paste
- Clay

SCENARIO #4

A classroom teacher designs the assessment structure in her class so that a test is given every Friday. In what ways does this structure impact behavior...

- With introduction of new material?
- With re-teaching?
- With intervention?
- With regards to student absences any day during the week?
- With feedback after assessments?

SCENARIO #5

A classroom teacher designs the behavior management structure posted with student names starting in a middle spot and the ability to move up 2 spots or down 2 spots. In what ways does this structure impact behavior...

- For students with emotional or social disorders?
- For students with high self-esteem?
- For students with low self-esteem?
- Of parents who visit the classroom?

SCENARIO #6

A classroom teacher designs the parent communication structure with a weekly newsletter to all parents and individual contact via phone call with at least 5 parents per week. In what ways does this structure impact behavior...

- Of the teacher's time over the week-end and after hours?
- Of the parents' and their perception of the teacher?
- Of the parents' and their perception of their children?

A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT OF
AUBURN CITY SCHOOLS & LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS