

# Think on it! Week 3 Plus, Minus, Interesting

**Plus, Minus, Interesting** This is a tool created by Edward de Bono and it forms part of his CORT (Cognitive Research Trust) thinking lessons programme.

Edward de Bono claims 'The PMI is a powerful thinking tool that is so simple that it is almost unlearnable'.

- P stands for PLUS or the good points
- M stands for MINUS or the bad points
- I stands for INTERESTING or the interesting points

It is ideal for:

- Analysing and hence evaluating
- Evaluating learning activities
- Decision making
- Planning next steps in a project
- Thinking through answers to questions

P	M	I

The PMI is an attention directing tool. In doing PMI you deliberately direct your attention first towards the PLUS points then towards the MINUS points and finally towards the INTERESTING points.

This element of the PMI has several functions

- It collects points which are neither positive or negative
- It encourages the deliberate habit of exploring matter outside the judgement framework
- It can expand thinking on an idea and inspire connections to be made
- It trains the mind to react to the interest inherent in an idea and not just to judgement feelings about the idea

De Bono states, 'It is the 'will' to look in certain directions that is so important. Once this is achieved then the natural challenge to intelligence is to find as many P or M or I points as you can. So there is a switch. Instead of intelligence being used to support a particular prejudice it is now being used to explore the subject matter'.

Source: Edward de Bono's  
'Thinking Course' available from the staff library.