



# 5-MINUTE STRATEGIC THINKING PLAN

Strategic thinking is about thinking big thoughts, looking toward the needs and products in the future, and crafting the plans needed to move forward. How can we help our teams think bigger?  
How do we think bigger?

## 1. See the big picture

Know as much as possible about your organization and its people. Know what you do and who you do it for.

**We make/produce/provide**

**for**

## 2. Connect the dots

Great strategic thinkers connect people, ideas, and possibilities, and this requires time to think. Some people think best with another person or people, while others need solitude. Either way, it requires time devoted to thinking.

**I best think deeply when I**

**I brainstorm best with people who**

## 3. View the issue from multiple perspectives

Strategic thinkers can tap into both divergent (big picture) and convergent (arranging the puzzle pieces) thinking, and they easily move between them to develop these thinking skills. Try brainstorming with one other person at a time, and try to view the issue from multiple perspectives.

**I can brainstorm with**

**to gather more information.**

**I can brainstorm with**

**to gauge how this issue is perceived.**

**I can brainstorm with**

**to figure out implementation.**

**I can brainstorm with**

**to see the issue from the outside.**

## 4. Change the environment

There is a reason many organizations hold "offsites." People need a different place, different stimuli, and to be "pleasantly uncomfortable" to shift thinking. People also need to eliminate distractions.

**I can go to**

**to think better.**

**My team could spend a day at**

**to think.**

## 5. Achieving long-term success

Some leaders hear about strategic thinking initiatives and they dismiss them as being frivolous. Strategic thinking is about the future of the business and achieving long-term success.

**If there were no resource constraints, this company could**

**If there was unlimited money, we could develop/  
produce/incorporate/research/solve**