

Flexible Thinking

Go For You Goals, Module 5



AGENDA



1. Brainstorm: What does the phrase “think outside the box” mean to you?



2. In a group, identify a problem in the school or community that needs to be solved.



3. Reflect: Is your solution an example of thinking outside the box? If not, what other ideas can you generate?

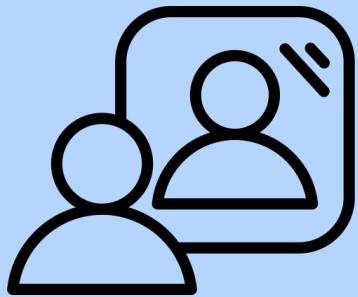
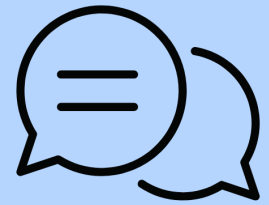


BRAINSTORM



What does the phrase “thinking outside the box” mean to you?



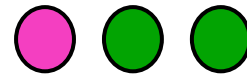
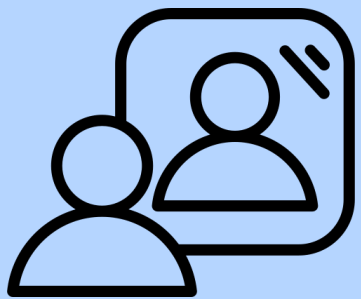


DISCUSS



Share your responses from the Brainstorm section.



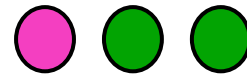


DIVE IN

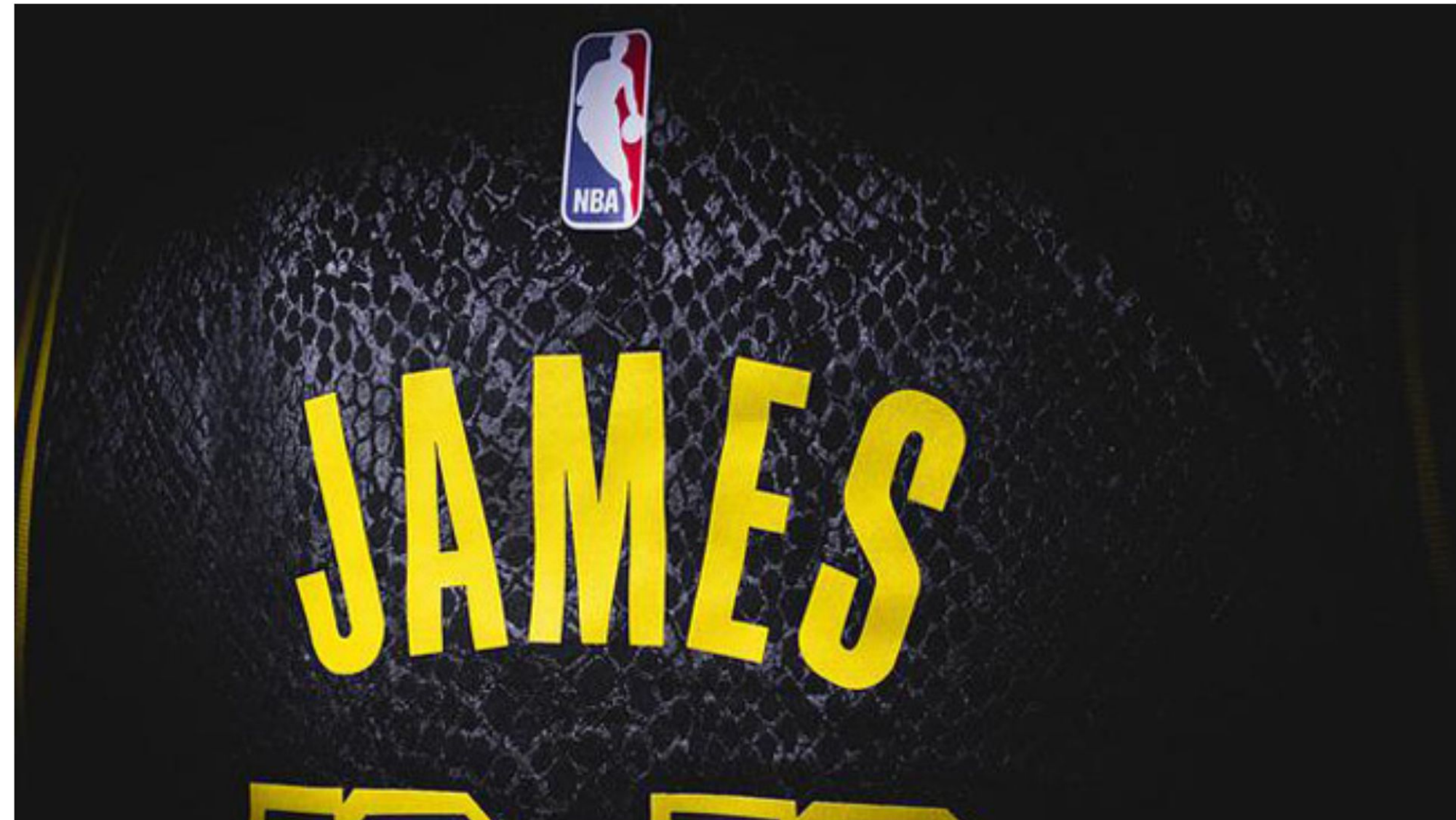


Flexible thinking

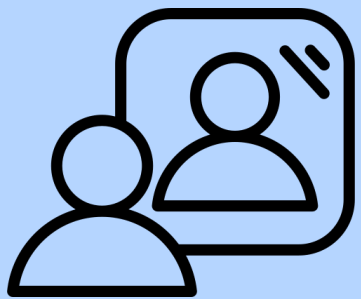
Flexible thinking is sometimes also called divergent or elastic thinking and it includes the ability to think and adapt or adjust to new situations easily. It also means being able to use logic, reasoning, and imagination to come up with new ideas in new situations. This kind of thinking can help you come up with unconventional solutions to conventional problems.



DIVE IN



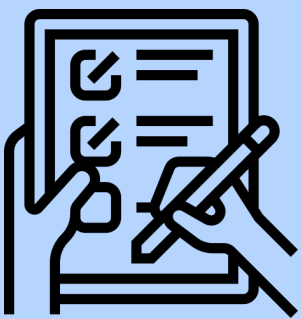
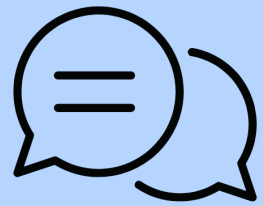
NBA player LeBron James was looking for a way to make a difference in the community of Akron, Ohio, where he grew up. The LeBron James Family Foundation partnered with the public school system to open the IPromise Academy in 2018.



DIVE IN



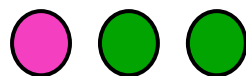
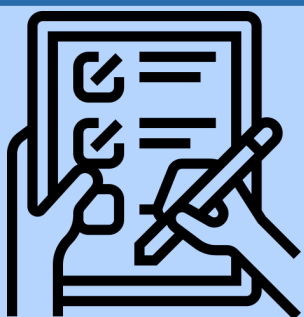
This school is unlike any other public school in the US. The school day is extended and so is the school year. Students wear uniforms. Students and parents have access to food, housing, haircuts, bikes, clothing, tutors, and medical and dental services.



DIVE IN



Students who graduate from high school get free tuition at the University of Akron. There's a Family Resource Center that offers parents help to get a high school diploma, legal advice, job coaching, and other resources. In return, parents are required to participate in school activities. This out of the box thinking is showing results.



ACTIVITY



Working in pairs or small groups, identify a problem in the school or community that needs to be solved.

 **High School**

Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Flexible Thinking

Step 1: Identify one problem in your school or community that needs to be solved.

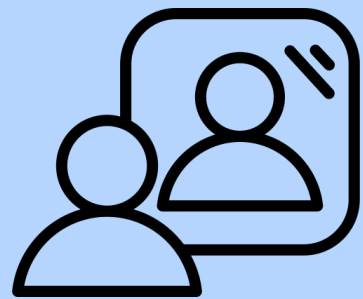
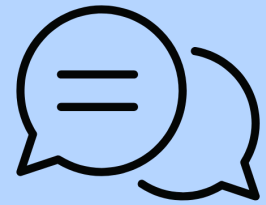
Step 2: Think outside the box to come up with some solutions for the issue.

Step 3: Plan the steps to get there.

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3

Reflect
Is your solution an example of thinking outside the box? If not, what other ideas can you generate?

©2024 Anna-Lisa Mackey, M.Ed., All rights reserved.



REFLECT



Is your solution an example of thinking outside the box? If not, what other ideas can you generate?





Extend & Enrich

Project based learning (PBL) activities often give students the opportunity to practice flexible thinking skills. The Bucks Institute for Education has free lesson plan ideas teachers can use to integrate PBL into their classroom. To find activities, visit: www.pblworks.org/what-is-pbl.



Home Connection



Home Connection

Flexible Thinking

Dear _____,

Today in class, we learned that **flexible thinking**, sometimes also called divergent or elastic thinking, includes thinking quickly and adapting to new situations. It also means being able to use logic, reasoning, and imagination to come up with new ideas in new situations. This kind of thinking can help you devise unconventional solutions to conventional problems.

Please encourage your student to share what thinking outside of the box means and how it could be used to solve problems at home or in the community. Ask them to share the problem they worked on in class.

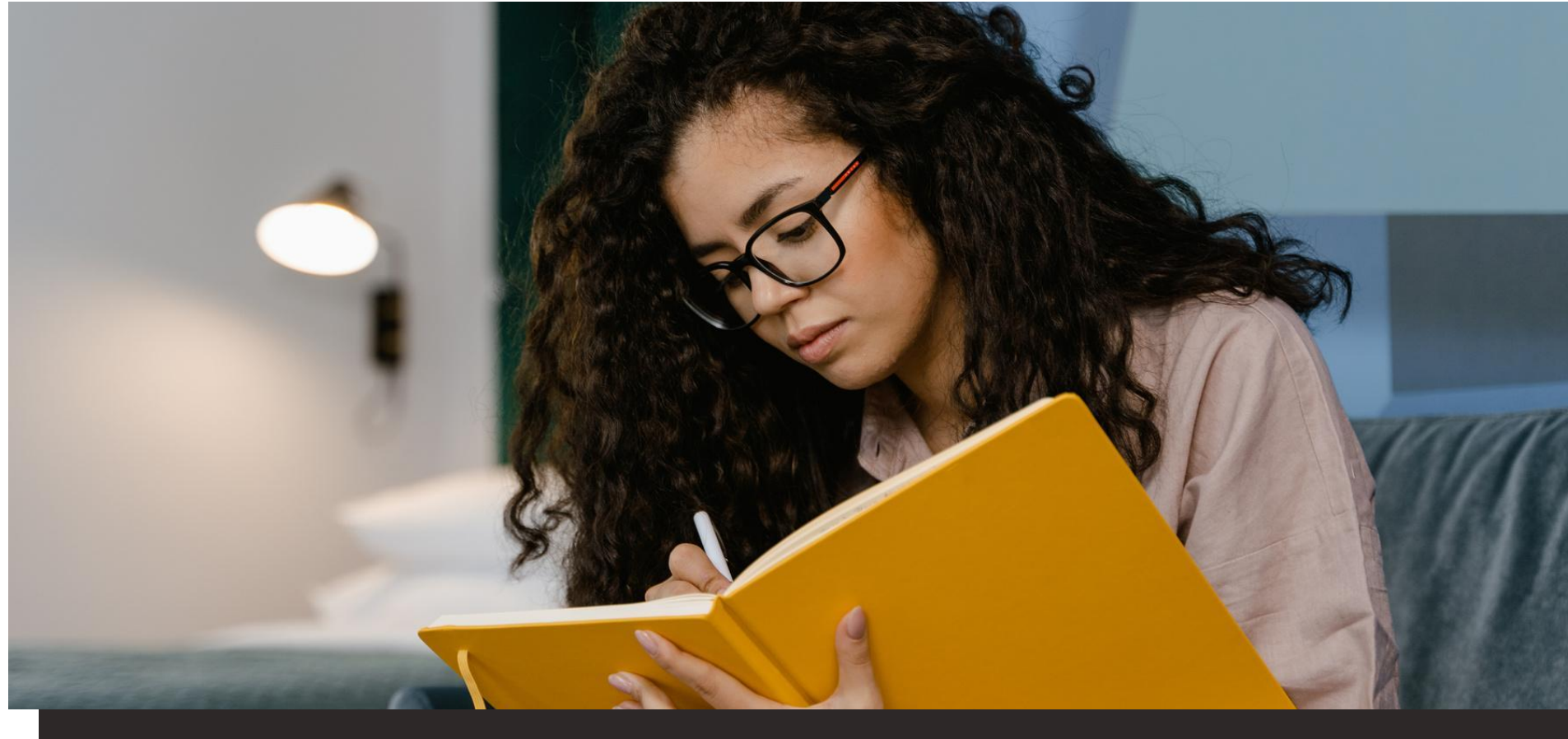
Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best,

©2024 Anna-Lisa Mackey, M.Ed., All rights reserved.



Professional Development



Take 5 minutes to consider: Are there ways you can integrate more flexible thinking activities into your classroom?





Further Study

- USA Today, *LeBron James: Opening school is my most important professional accomplishment:*
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nba/2017/11/30/lebron-james-opening-school-most-important-professional-accomplishment/909374001/>
- NY Times, *Lebron James Opened a School That Was Considered an Experiment. It's Showing Promise:*
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/12/education/lebron-james-school-ohio.html>
- Scientific American, *The Power of Flexible Thinking:*
www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-power-of-flexible-thinking/





Lesson Complete!

