

Spirit of Performance

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Issue: #5

March/2007



Meet Alex.

Two weeks ago, Alex suffered gastro-intestinal virus. It started one afternoon and ended the next. The evening in between taught me a lesson.

I got up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom. I sleep in the dark. And without shoes. I failed to prepare for Alex's not feeling "in control."

My lesson? On a mid-night trip to the bathroom, if your dog has an upset tummy, turn on the light. Or wear slippers.

In this month's **Spirit of Performance**, you'll learn about *Creative Preparation*. I quote one of my favorite poets, *John Keats*. I hope you will try the *Creative Preparation Tips*. And please note the two *money-savers* I offer you: one for books, one for my newest service.

Love to hear from you,



tim@wrightresults.com

CREATIVE PREPARATION

How to Avoid Stepping in It

How often have you initiated a project? How many times have you prepared well and well in advance? How many times has an unsuspected glitch popped up and delayed or derailed your efforts?



Let's apply the lesson I learned from Alex.

Creative Preparation is so simple I offer it in this bulleted list:

- Define your project.
- Consider resources and materials you will need.
- Run through the procedural sequence you will follow.
- *Brainstorm all the potential failures you can think of.*
- *Write down those failures.*

[Those last two bullets are key to Creative Preparation. They encourage you to think in advance in an unusual way and from a different perspective.]

Thinking of potential failure can frighten us. However, itemizing all the failures we

can encounter is a great way to prevent that fear from succeeding and causing failure. (Wouldn't that be ironic?)

Here are two more key steps to Creative Preparation:

- Slowly, deliberately read your possible failures, preferably aloud.
- Hear your mind recommend specific actions to prevent and/or answer each failure.

I could give you examples from clients of the success of this simple tool. However, your own story is better than any of the quite-a-few I could share, better because it is your story.

- Recall a project in which something went wrong.
- If you did list potential problems in advance, wasn't it easier to deal with the "oops"?
- If you did not consider pitfalls, did they impact your project more (negatively) than they had to.

Keep in mind that Creative Preparation can help you avoid obstacles entirely. It can also allow you to respond readily to obstacles if they do occur.

Two benefits for the price of one.

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Creative Preparation (above) is a Creativity Charger you'll find in ***Batteries Included!***

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Offer Expires: March 31, 2007

QUOTATION

...every fresh experience points out some form of error which we shall afterwards carefully avoid. ~ ~ John Keats

CREATIVE PREPARATION TIPS

3 Tips to Make Creative Preparation Natural

1. Encourage team members to think, "What can go wrong?" as part of project planning.
2. Create a standard project-design procedure. Include a step such as "Consider failures."
3. Invite team/staff to suggest ways to prevent such failures before they occur.

BONUS: Keep (and post) a record of failures that were thought of in advance, that

occurred, and that Creative Preparation helped answer (and how!).

That's it. Creative Preparation and three Tips to make it real. I hope you will feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Timothy Wright
Wright Results, Inc.

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Offer Expires: April 30, 2007

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