

Reviewing Options

By Maureen Tazzioli

Do you believe that the majority of decisions made are based upon current information and a clear understanding of all options available? If so, how would you rate your own ability to choose the best option available on any given situation? Let me give you an example of what I mean.

Yesterday, I decided to make a dessert for my family. So with our family recipe in hand, I went to work. First, I found all the ingredients I needed, and then I began to follow the instructions. When I came to the section where one cup of chopped nuts were required, I did what I always do...I placed my selection of mixed nuts in a plastic bag, found my rolling pin and then proceeded to roll over the bag. I did this because I wanted to ensure that I was given every opportunity to have the recipe turn out exactly the way it had been for so many years. It was then that I discovered something.

See, on my kitchen counter stood a food processor. Clearly a better option for chopping ingredients I thought to myself. So, after a couple of minutes using the rolling pin, I shifted my attention to the food processor and within seconds I chopped my selection of mixed nuts for the family recipe.

Then I continued. Step by step I began to alter the methods used to prepare the ingredients and soon I noticed how quickly things were coming together. Within minutes I had completed everything and into the freezer the dessert went until it was time to be consumed.

Later that day, when my family tasted the dessert I made, they commented on how good it was and how it appeared to taste much better than it had before. Then they started to ask me what exactly I did to make it taste so good. It was then that it occurred to me...it was not that I changed the ingredients but rather that I worked with the knowledge I had and the options available to me to make the difference.

See, whether at home or at work, we as humans may find ourselves to be somewhat habitual in our methods of doing things. Relying on past success stories we may spend more time and money trying to repeat a process exactly the same way as before just so we can have the exact same outcome. Now, even though this may not be a terrible thing, it does leave me to question whether or not we are being as productive and effective as we could be with the knowledge and options available to us, or if we are merely trying to repeat ourselves.

Therefore to help ourselves move forward towards better outcomes, let us be willing to make slight improvements along the way. Chances are if we spend a little extra time thinking about, and then implementing some of our modified methods, we may find that time and effectiveness can be on our side.

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