

# ***SCAMPER:***

This tool uses action words or phrases to evoke or trigger new or varied options. Several questions accompany each word or phrase that support the word and often help to open up a wide range of possibilities.

## **Uses:**

- ✚ Need to generate many, varied and unusual ideas
- ✚ Need to consider new and varied perspectives or change in viewpoint
- ✚ Need to speed up the pace of idea generation
- ✚ When the group can benefit from exploration and some playful searching

## **Possible Applications:**

- ✚ Creating technical devices
- ✚ Improving costumes or sets
- ✚ Creating characters for a story
- ✚ Varying media and methods to develop original art
- ✚ Use of given materials in an *Instant Challenge*

## **Steps:**

1. State the challenge or task clearly and concisely and write it on paper. Begin the statement with “How to....?” Or “In what ways might we...?” to invite ideas
2. Pick a letter from the SCAMPER list. State the word it represents and ask “What new ideas for this challenge or task might this word suggest?” Make connections between the understood challenge and the ‘trigger words’
3. Ask the questions following each word or phrase and apply the questions to your challenge statement. Write the ideas on paper.
4. Tip: If you have difficulty stimulating new ideas from a particular ‘trigger word’ and its questions, choose another word from the list and try using those questions. This tool is not intended to be a strictly followed sequence of ‘S’ to ‘R’. You do not have to use all of the letters and words.
5. Review the list of options generated to determine if they have met the stated task or challenge.

**S**ubstitute

**C**ombine

**A**dapt

**M**odify – Magnify - Minify

**P**ut to other uses

**E**liminate

**R**everse/Rearrange

## SCAMPER ‘Trigger Words & Questions:

***Substitute:*** What might you take away and put back in its place to solve this task or challenge? What might you substitute? Replace? Exchange? Who else? What else? Other ingredients? Other material? Other approach?

***Combine :*** What two things might you put together to help solve this task or challenge? What might you combine this object with? How about a blend? An alloy? An assortment? An ensemble? Combine purposes?

***Adapt:*** How might you change something about the task or challenge to solve it? What might you change or do differently? What else is this like? Does the past offer a parallel? Whom could I emulate? What could I copy?

***Modify, Magnify, Minify:*** What might you make smaller or bigger to solve this task or challenge? How might it change if it were bigger or smaller? What to increase or reduce? How might you diminish or enhance attributes?

***Put to other Uses:*** What might you use in a different way to solve this task or challenge? Are there other uses for this object? What properties suggest another way to use this? Could its form, weight, or structure suggest another use? Change the context?

***Eliminate:*** What might you get rid of to solve this task or challenge? Is there something you might leave out? Condense? Fewer parts? What might you remove? Lighter? How can we make more with less?

***Rearrange or Reverse:*** What might you mix up or move around to solve this task or challenge? How might we reorder this? Reverse roles? Turn upside down? Backwards? Inside out? Look at from a different point of view? What if you were to rearrange any parts, timing, objectives? Transpose cause and effect?