



# VIS-IT SOLUTIONS TRAINING DOCUMENT

## MATRIX THINKING MATRIX THINKING OVERVIEW

Matrix Thinking utilizes multi-color, rectangular VIS-IT Big Idea Pads to evaluate one set of ideas against a second set of distinctly different ideas or conditions.

The picture below illustrates a matrix with one set of potential ideas in the leftmost vertical column (white sheets), and the second set of potential ideas in the top row (blue sheets). Think of the white sheets as “row heading ideas” and the blue sheets as “column heading ideas.” The body of the matrix includes all of the potential intersections between the heading ideas. The Anchor space is a good location for a Focus Question or Topic statement.

Anchor	Col A Heading Idea	Col B Heading Idea	Col C Heading Idea
Row 1 Heading Idea	Intersection A1	Intersection B1	Intersection C1
Row 2 Heading Idea	Intersection A2	Intersection B2	Intersection C2
Row 3 Heading Idea	Intersection A3	Intersection B3	Intersection C3
Row 4 Heading Idea	Intersection A4	Intersection B4	Intersection C4

At each intersection, the participants make an evaluation of how well the idea in the leftmost column fits with the idea in the top row based on specific criteria. The complexity of matrix thinking increases with the number of criteria to be evaluated at each intersection.

The major advantages of using VIS-IT Big Idea Pads instead of flip chart paper are:

- The ease of modifying the words at a specific intersection,
- The use of color to signal a level of evaluation, and
- The ability to easily expand, contract or re-arrange the matrix as needed, during the course of the session

## **ABOUT VISION WORKS**

Vision Works, LLC is the creator of the VIS-IT™ Line of facilitation and thinking tools including FlowShapes™, 6" Hexagons, Jumbo Hexagons, Mini Hexagons, Big Idea Pads, and the Great Big Idea Pad. Vision Works serves a rapidly growing customer base including facilitators, trainers, consultants, managers and executives working in some of the world's largest and most innovative organizations.

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