

Food for Thought

April 2008

Do your Meetings Drag On? Try this!

Food for Thought is our way of sharing interesting concepts on corporate leadership and management with others who might find it useful. The thoughts offered are intended to be controversial and thought provoking. They always follow our motto of helping develop logical leadership.

This month's food for thought is a bit light hearted, so much so that you might wonder – given the date – whether we are serious. But it maintains our brand of being provocatively logical.

We offer three ideas for keeping meetings crisp and short. The first, practiced by many, is to hold standing meetings. You could go to the extreme and enforce standing meetings exclusively by removing chairs from conference rooms.

The second idea, likely to be new and provocative, is to institute a buzzer in conference rooms that buzzes say, every ten minutes. The corporate protocol would then require that all meeting participants stand and observe a ten second silence, during which they are to ponder on the relevance of the current conversation to the agenda topic under discussion. At the end of the silence, participants resume their discussion, invariably questioning any irrelevant digressions.

The third idea is not only provocative, but quite intrusive. Play money is made available to all participants in a meeting and they are expected to drop into a bowl a prescribed amount of money, say \$20, every ten minutes. The money represents the cost of their time. The meeting chair is expected to draw from the bowl money representing the value that has been created at the meeting. This brings constant focus on creating tangible value in meetings.

We have received many responses to our Food for Thought mailings, asking if you can freely share and forward these thoughts. Indeed you can. All we ask is that a clear

attribution to LogiStyle and our contact information are included. For the interested reader, we have archived some of our recent Food for Thought mailings at our website, and can be viewed at [LogiStyle: Food for Thought Archive](#). As always, we welcome your comments. We hope your business is doing well. If we can be of any assistance please feel free to call – even, if just to chat.

Best Regards,

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