



## CHAPTER FOUR

# Only Wrapped Pieces of Wax

You and Your Personal Creativity

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### **Are all people alike? The same?**

Of course not. But still many managers, supervisors, parents, teachers, etc. treat us as if we were. We are different in hundreds of ways—physical, mental, emotional, social. They include: age, gender, background, interests, hobbies, experiences, opinions, beliefs, religions, strengths, sizes, weights, attitudes, values, skills, abilities, desires, drives, etc., etc., etc.

During the past few years the topic of diversity has become very significant in the United States. When I first heard a presentation done on it I had an Aha which I turned into a speech and a workshop:

### **DIFFERENCES DIVIDE; DIVERSITY ENRICHES**

My basic premise and understanding about differences and diversities is that if we focus on how we are different we build walls, barriers, blockades. If we focus on our diversities or how we are diverse we can build bridges, buildings and great structures or cities.

So let's look at one primary source of our diversity that makes us each more than **wrapped pieces of wax**: our thinking, learning, problem solving and communicating styles.

Enclosed in the back of the book is a copy of the **M.I.N.D. Design©** questionnaire and an interpretation pamphlet. Take out the questionnaire now and complete it following the instructions. Once you have completed it then read the gray pamphlet. Then return to reading this chapter. Your score(s) on it will effect how what you read means to you.

Now you may have a sense of the type of crayon you might be and how different you are from other people you know.

Based upon the concepts of the **M.I.N.D. Design©** we tend to fall into 1 of 20 types or **M.I.N.D. Design's** based on our thinking, learning, problem solving and communicating styles.

4	individual styles	-	M, I, N, or D	(8 points or higher in one)
12	different pairs	-	MI, MN, MD, IM, IN, ID, NI, ND, NM, DM, DI, DN	one score higher or both scores matching
3	matching triples	-	MIN, MND, IND	(4/4/4)
1	equally balanced	-	MIND	(3/3/3/3)

Reading the gray pamphlet will help you understand what your **M.I.N.D Design©** or style may be. Most of us have paired styles with one slightly to moderately stronger or preferred than the other. Which are you?

If you are a **Meditative** crayon you tend to be more logical, precise, sometimes abstract, you prefer to work alone on one thing at a time that you choose to work on. If you are an **Intuitive** crayon you tend to be an exploratory person who tries lots of things and ideas, you probably have many interests, you look for many possibilities and will try things out without having all the details. If you are a **Negotiative** crayon you tend to want to be with people most of the time, loyalty and fairness are very important to you, you trust your feelings more than facts and figures, and usually are a very amiable or friendly person, even with strangers. If you are a **Directive** crayon you tend to be very organized, structured, mostly serious, like to do things in a step-by-step manner, knowing ahead of time what the results will be.

Those of us who tend to more Intuitive crayons tend to be people who “break” our crayons easily. Negotiatives will break them if it is something their group is doing. Meditatives will experiment in breaking or test break their crayons. Directives will generally prefer not to break their crayons but rather keep them neat, orderly, sharp and in order. They also tend to put them back in order in their boxes when they are not in use. Intuitives and Negotiatives tend to scatter their crayons. Meditatives use only what they need and keep them in easy reach but not necessarily in their box. Directives always use them properly and keep them in order and neat.

My suggestion to you, now that you have examined what your **M.I.N.D. Design©** might be and have found that the basic descriptions are generally true about you is to think about how it might effect your approach to creativeness and creative thinking. How we think affects how we learn. How we learn affects how we solve problems. How we solve problems affects how we communicate. All four affect how we choose to creative.

The more Meditative and Directive we are the more con-

servative and logical we are in our approach to creative thinking. Because of this some of the exercises and techniques described in this book will fit you and some will not. My suggestion is that you experiment occasionally with the ones that are uncomfortable at first to help expand and add to your nature but do not strive to change, reverse, substitute your natural approach (**M.I.N.D. Design©**).

The more Intuitive and Negotiative we are the more flexible, open-ended, experimental and exploratory we are and the more we are open to change or crave change. Because of this we naturally break crayons. What we can learn is to become more sensitive to people who don't, while still inviting them to try it. Try it to discover what they can learn and the potential new horizons they will uncover.

We are not simply pieces of wax paper in a box. We are very complex people with many diversities and riches. We need to accept our particular diversities and to discover the diversities of others, then to accept them as good for them and try to learn what we can from them. As a total box of twelve we can be a tremendous potential set of resources.

We make up a potentially unlimited rainbow capable of producing and fulfilling all our dreams if we choose and accept integrated **purposes**, learn to **respect** each other, **involve** each other in decisions and actions, treat each other with **dignity** and continually strive to do all we do with **enthusiasm**. Purpose, respect, involvement, dignity and enthusiasm. Together, if seen as an acronym, these five keys spell **P.R.I.D.E.**, the one element every successful person, family, team, organization or country needs.

Learn to celebrate the richness of the colors of the crayons in your family, neighborhood, town, city, church, synagogue, organization or company. In our diversity or variety is our true potential strength.