

from **Stuck in a Rut: The Role of Creative Thinking in Problem Solving and Legal Education**

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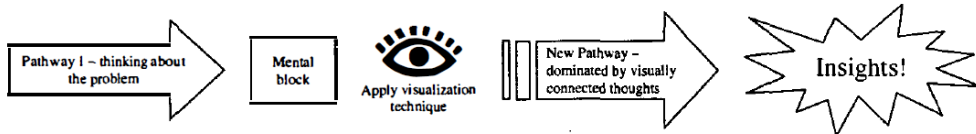
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D. Visualization

Visualization is another method to enhance our creative thinking.⁶⁶ Focusing on visual stimuli rather than abstract ideas brings to the fore another set of pathways that may otherwise be suppressed in favor of the dominant mode of thinking. One can engage in visualization simply by shutting one's eyes and thinking about the problem. One might think about, for example, what it looks like to have the problem solved, and come up with new ways to solve it. Or, one might look at the problem from above, and see things otherwise invisible. Law professors might use visualization to help explain legal concepts. For example, in order to explain the difference between the search of a home and the search of a car, a Criminal Procedure professor might seat students in the front of the class, as if they were in a car. Other students could perform the search of the car to illustrate more graphically what goes on, and why our rights to privacy might be different as applied to automobiles. This technique encourages our more spatial, tactile right brains to collaborate with our left, thereby awakening unused pathways.

The visualization process can be graphically portrayed as follows:



⁶⁶ PLSEK, *supra* note 33, at 247-267, discusses this in terms of "Cinematics."