



ALLIANCE FOR
**DECISION
EDUCATION**

Practical Applications for Thinking Probabilistically in Work and Life

Introduction

Framing/Purpose

- Discuss application of the Decision Education domain of the quarter, Thinking Probabilistically (“TP”)
- Learning → Tangible Tools and Takeaways

Agenda

- Introduction / Learning Review
- Tools and Takeaways
- Group Discussion
- Resources and References

Learning Review

Q2 Staff Learning Opportunities on TP

- Canvas module & Learning Session
- 2 Podcast Club sessions
 - [How to See the Future](#) with Philip Tetlock and Shane Parrish (The Knowledge Project Podcast)
 - [Analytics and Adaptation](#) with Daryl Morey and Annie Duke (Decision Education Podcast)
- Book Club (*Think Again* by Adam Grant)
- DE Application Discussion

Resources

- [TP webpage](#); [Learning Standards](#);

Learning Review

Key Concepts:

- Navigating Uncertainty
 - [Uncertainty Project: “Getting from less sure to more sure”](#)
- Estimating and Predicting
 - Using percentages, not words, for estimations and predictions
 - Forecasting
 - Base rates: what normally happens here
 - Expected Value (“EV”): evaluating likelihood and value
- Calibrating Confidence
 - Confidence intervals: X% confident it’s somewhere between X and Y
 - Using percentages, not words, for current beliefs

Tools and Takeaways: Overview

#1 Expected Value	#2 Equivalent Bet Test
#3 Supersimple Superforecasting	#4 Trip Wires / Kill Criteria

#1 Expected Value

> Alliance's Prioritization Framework:

How **likely** is it that we can actually pull this off?*

likelihood and value



How does it help us **achieve** the Alliance's **mission** and strategic **goals**?

See tool #2
for help with
this!

Other considerations:

COST - financial, staffing, opportunities, risks

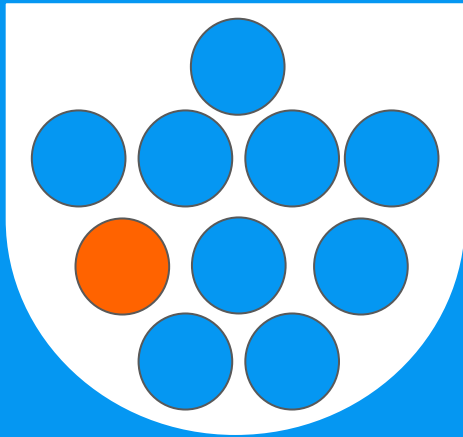
URGENCY - time sensitivity

#1 Expected Value – EXAMPLE

Project	Likelihood	Value	EV
Youth Council	80%	5	4
Teachers Conference	25%	8	2

#2 Equivalent Bet Test

› Which bet would you rather take?



- › You have a belief, but how confident are you?
 - › There are 10 balls in a bag: 9 blue, 1 orange.
 - › You can choose one of the following bets:
 - If you pick a blue ball, you win \$10,000
 - If your belief is correct, you win \$10,000
- Which do you take?

Reduce the number of blue balls in the bag until you would rather bet on your belief!

#3 Supersimple Superforecasting Checklist

- I . **Triage** determine if decision is “forecastable”
- II . **Break it down** identify steps/assumptions involved
- III . **Outside/Inside View** Base rates first, then tune
- IV . **Seek Opposing Views** identify counterarguments
- V . **Update Beliefs** make small adjustments, often

#4 Tripwires / Kill Criteria

"Tripwires allow us the certainty of committing to a course of action, even a risky one, while minimizing the costs of overconfidence."

Heath brothers

"Clearly defined goals should come with a warning: Danger! You May Experience Escalation of Commitment."

Annie Duke

"If I haven't achieved X by the time I've spent Y (amount in money, effort, time, or other resources), I should quit."

Group Discussion

- (1) How has your **experience** been with using any of the tools above? What benefits or limits have you seen? What lessons have you learned?
- (2) Which of these **tools** do you plan to start implementing? Why those? How?
- (3) As you think about implementing these tools, what **questions** or **concerns** do you have? Are there any perceived barriers or challenges that you anticipate, and how do you plan to address them?
- (4) Have you encountered any **other TP-related tools** or techniques that weren't mentioned, including AI-tools, that you find valuable? Can you share briefly how you've used them and their impact?
- (5) Any **other thoughts** or questions?

Resources and References

Tools

- [Superforecasting](#) - Medium
- [Equivalent Bet Test](#) - Less Wrong
- [Tripwires / Kill Criteria](#) - The Uncertainty Project / Behavioral Scientist
- [Assumptions Mapping](#) - The Uncertainty Project / Behavioral Scientist

Others

- [TP webpage](#)
- [Learning Standards](#)
- [Uncertainty Project Blog](#)



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Thank you!