

How to Engage in Thinking

Author and Speaker John Maxwell says, “*Great thinking produces great progress.*” If you want to be a more [effective leader](#) then you must engage in thinking. Being intentional about thinking can be challenging though. This is because you have to stop leading, separate yourself from distractions, and take time to think. Maybe this is why so many people and leaders do not invest in thinking.

However there are many benefits that come when a leader engages in thinking. Some include:

- They have relevant and fresh ideas.
- They can better bring solutions to problems or issues.
- They are more effective in communicating with others.
- They [increase creativity](#).
- They can produce more in less time.
- They can better adapt to the changing world.

Below are 6 ways that will help you engage in thinking:

- 1. Chose to think-* Thinking always starts with a personal choice to think. Making the choice to think requires discipline in setting time to think and then following through with it.
- 2. [Associate](#) with great thinkers-* I believe you become like the people you associate with on a regular basis. If you’re around great thinkers then you increase your thinking and gain wisdom from those who are already great thinkers.
- 3. [Have an inflow of good thoughts-](#)* Having a personal growth plan can be a catalyst to good thinking. This is because when you grow and learn you gain good and new thoughts. A daily inflow of good thoughts can ignite your thinking.
- 4. [Have a place to think-](#)* This is one of the most important things to consider when engaging in thinking. One of my personal favorite places to think is at the [beach](#) (I live about 10 minutes away from the beach in San Diego, CA). I’m able to frequently go to the beach and engage in thinking. The important thing is to find a place that’s that is free from distractions so you are able to think.
- 5. [Be able to capture your thoughts-](#)* What’s the point of thinking if you don’t capture your thoughts. Being able to place your thoughts on paper or digitally allows you to remember and go back to your thoughts at a later time. I personally use [Evernote](#) to capture my thoughts.
- 6. [Have a place to unleash your thoughts-](#)* After you have taken the time to think and capture your thoughts then unleash them to your followers, tribe, community, or the world. This might take place through your leadership or in a blog.

Questions: *How important is thinking as a leader? How do you engage in thinking?*