

Steve Uzzell | Executive Summary

All of us do the same thing everyday, regardless of what our business cards say. We spend our time in the innovative use of the creative problem solving process, and the best leaders are the best problem solvers.

The best place that I've ever found to solve a problem is on the open road. The open road gives you the first step into the problem solving process. It allows you to take a step away from your immediate world, yet it gives you a visual focal point.

On the open road we're stationary in a moving vehicle. That effect puts our subconscious into overdrive. The open road never fails to open your mind, and once your mind is open boundless power is unlocked. It's called your imagination.

The open road mimics the road your mind takes in moving from problem to solution. Sometimes that route is a simple path, sometimes it's a roller coaster ride, and sometimes it has gentle curves. Regardless of what the open road looks like for you, when you're on it you not only believe you'll get from point A to point B, but you also love the journey and that love fills you with optimism.

How do you access the open road state of mind from your desk? Make all preparations necessary.

What's the first step in making all preparations necessary? Know where you're going next year, next month, and next week. All of us have the will and desire to be in the driver's seat, but if you don't know where you're going, every road is the wrong road and any road will get you there. Know where you're going personally, professionally, spiritually, and intellectually.

The first way to learn where you're going is to question everything. Reexamine all of the stuff you think you know. Be willing to start at the beginning. Don't overlook the simple. Whether you learned it from a mentor, parent, or in school, ask and get an answer to the six questions of journalism: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Preparation lays the groundwork for magic to happen. After all, your eyes are only ever going to see what your mind is prepared to comprehend. The more you know, the more you'll see.

If you make the problem your passion, that passion will make possible situations where providence can favor the prepared mind.

Have the courage to always pursue your passion. Take every opportunity you get to share that passion and to share your knowledge.

The more you access your passion, you'll hear more easily and you'll trust more frequently your own instincts. In a world where we increasingly rely on technology to make decisions, it's easy to get out of the practice of trusting your intuition.

Find a fresh perspective. Get a fresh look. Make a new beginning. Allow yourself that moment away from our connected world to find your horizon. Nourish your soul and you'll find that joy is in the journey. Sometimes we get going so fast, with a window of acceptability that's so small, that we can no longer see what's important. When that happens, we lose the most valuable connection we have—to something larger than ourselves.

Action Plan:

- ✓ Consider where you hope to be in your career three years from now. What necessary preparations ought you begin making so that you reach your desired destination?

- ✓ Take one day this month to refresh yourself in nature. Visit your favorite local park, hike or bike on a nature trail, or make a short trip to a nearby beach or lake.