

Blue, Green or Red?

What's the difference between the Blue, Green and Red Pocketfiles?

John Townsend writes: None of the Pocketfiles of ready-to-use training activities is 'better' than any of the others! Each of them was designed as a 'stand-alone' toolkit to give a full range of exercises for busy trainers on the lookout for new, stimulating and above all participant-led, interactive activities for their courses.

Each has a selection of tried and tested icebreakers, five or six universal designs which can be used in just about any course (whether the learning objectives and content are to do with technical knowledge, attitude change or skills acquisition) and three or four card-based activities aimed at helping teams work well together.



The Red Pocketfile

I use all the activities in the Red Pocketfile regularly. My own favourite is Viking Attack. It has proved popular the world over and the competitive element works particularly well everywhere....everyone wants to beat the world record set by a group of pilots.

While travelling the world to train groups with incredibly varied cultural backgrounds, I have occasionally wondered whether Viking Attack is too 'northern European'. My fears have always been unfounded - notably in Mauritius where a group of managers who had never left the island interpreted all the enigmatic Scandinavian-type clues with lightning speed!

The Green Pocketfile

This one has two of my hardy annuals, Supertanker and Road Names. Supertanker is guaranteed to get teams to have a serious look at their planning and decision-making processes without which any team will capsize....the analogy of the time it takes for a giant ship to slow and/or turn always seems to leave an indelible mark.

Road Names strikes a universal chord in people's value systems. Without ever getting dangerously emotional or aggressive with each other, even relatively shy team members do seem to be willing to stand up for their choice of whose names they want on the list. This of course provides a quick and efficient illustration of the need to take everyone's values into account. Try it in Italy and then Britain and see the difference in the individual choices! However when it comes to consensus the same names always appear in the top 5....can you guess which ones?

The Blue Pocketfile

The most popular of the activities in the blue one has proven to be Westrek. I've found it a foolproof way to start any seminar involving planning or teambuilding. It's also good as a stand-alone icebreaker in any course where the participants will have to work together during exercises.

A bonus in the Blue Pocketfile is the section on Spot Checks. I'm still not sure after years of training trainers how many of us are using this fantastically elegant way of getting participant feedback on just about anything in only a few seconds!

As publishers of the Pocketfiles we are constantly asked to explain the difference between the three sets of trainer activities.

We thought it would be helpful, therefore, to put this question to the originator, John Townsend, and printed here is his response.

We hope you find it helpful in making your buying choice.



Inspirational trainer John Townsend, author of the Blue, Green and Red Pocketfiles.



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