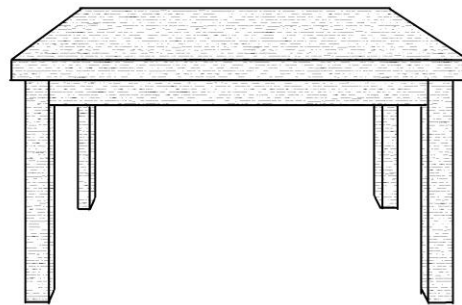


### Putting Everything On The Table

When making decisions, which is often hard for me to do, I sit, alone or with my team, and put everything on the table. Any idea is allowed and welcomed—all likely options, and, by rule, you must also include funny things you would never actually do. This makes it enjoyable and helps you think outside of the proverbial box.



For some matters, I only *think* of the table and place a few possibilities on it. For larger matters, I write a list of possibilities. After it sits on the metaphorical table for a while, I begin deducting which ones could be crossed off. Since some are silly, or maybe not quite as good, this gives my mind a running start on deciding what to do. Once I have narrowed it down to only two or three options, I am already in the habit of looking at all the options and crossing them off based on logic and intuition. I can now solve the dilemma much easier.

Sounds silly. But it works. And, after sharing this method with others, I kept hearing, “You need to write that in a book. I use it all the time!” Try it yourself. Pick something you have been struggling with, and write out a dozen options, making sure a few of them are just plain silly. From delegating to throwing a party, from taking a vacation to only working on it, to moving to a different country, have fun with it, but write all the best ideas you have, too.

1: \_\_\_\_\_ 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
3: \_\_\_\_\_ 4: \_\_\_\_\_  
5: \_\_\_\_\_ 6: \_\_\_\_\_  
7: \_\_\_\_\_ 8: \_\_\_\_\_  
9: \_\_\_\_\_ 10: \_\_\_\_\_  
11: \_\_\_\_\_ 12: \_\_\_\_\_

If applying this helps improve your life, then look for more resources at:  
[www.EmotionalManagement.org](http://www.EmotionalManagement.org)