

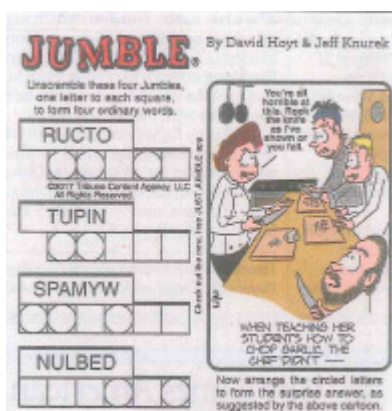


## FROM THE DRAGON'S LAIR

#1

### The Mind and the Brain (Truth, Lairs and Liars)

She was quite adept at playing the “Jumble” word puzzle game that is still carried in the San Francisco Chronicle.



The scrambled letters in the game would apparently jump off the page into her imagination, magically transposed into a coherent word expression found in any dictionary. Not just one or two words, all of them, easily and automatically. Myself? Not so much. She is my former wife (of twenty years) and she has helped maintain a mutually devoted friendship, for which I am extremely grateful.

Her mental process is probably explainable through the categorization of our mental make-up as either “literal” or “figurative” – right brain or left brain – creative or rational. All of which are useful interpretations but very likely inaccurate in fact. They are at least variable into a different plasticity if we could see our way to allowing such a conscious mental transformation to take place.

There **is** a juxtaposition of letters that I would like to share. Lair is easily transformed into liar. Everything I hope to present within the confines of this web site should be read with an enlightened skepticism. I promise not to seek to teach .... **and that is probably a lie**. Everybody wants to teach, very few want to learn, much less learn by digging deep into a subject using an analytical skill (for example, making a clear, concise chart) that is not necessarily easy to learn.

I am a literal, rational, logical thinker. But I believe I also have a significant amount of imagination and creativity. I believe we all have both but each of us are better served by developing our best qualities as well as our weaker ones. The IdeaGram charts help contribute to

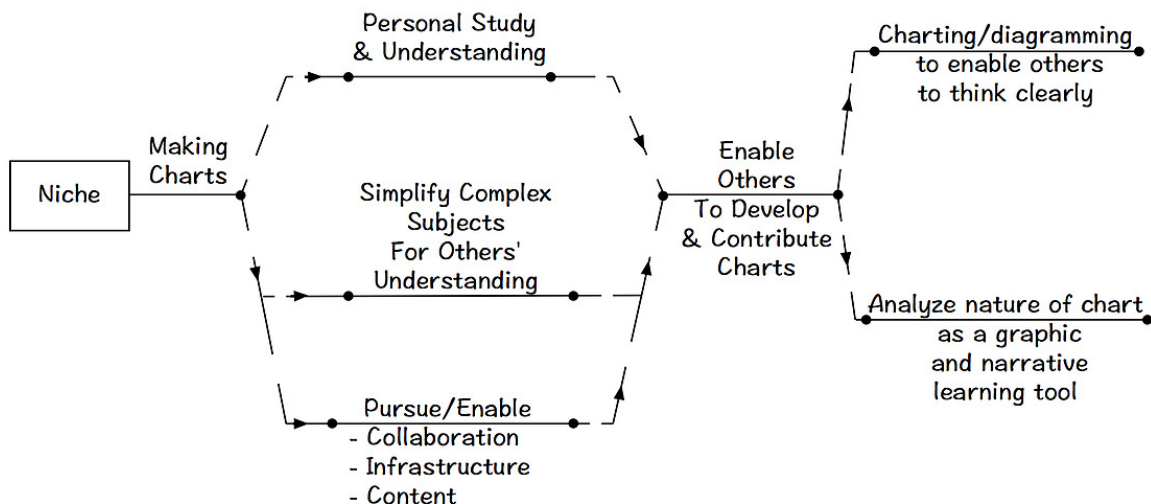
our understanding of our brains, our minds and ourselves. This understanding contributes to the development and transformation of ourselves into more complete, healthy and happy people.

The goal of this web site will be to offer some things that I have observed and prepared and enlist the efforts of you, the viewer, to submit your own offerings in a written and, particularly, graphic format. I'm not proposing to be solely a presenter of knowledge. I'm offering to share charts (now called IdeaGrams) that I've prepared as a result of analyzing various processes and narrative materials over the last forty-five years.

I'm sincerely interested in sharing the clarity of thinking that develops as a result of applying the techniques of critical analysis and concentration that are required to analyze a subject and create a chart that reflects the content of a process or a piece of written material. It is a process of concentrating and thinking that stems from applying the effort of extracting the main, logical progression of ideas into a visual format.

There are those, however, who may not be inclined to undertake the effort required to develop the focus needed to create charts on their own. For them, being exposed to the charts (or "IdeaGrams") alone could be a valuable experience. Time will tell.

You are likely asking: "What does he mean?" Consider the following example:



This is an example of what I am now calling an "IdeaGram" – it is a logic diagram or flow chart in the tradition of PERT/CPM Network Analysis and Project Planning. The interesting application which has been developed is to use these charts as a method of outlining written material and structuring concepts and ideas. For myself, the process began around 1975.

This chart may be analogous to a mind map (trademarked by Tony Buzan) but can be read in a logical sequence, from left to right and top to bottom. It should be reasonably self-explanatory (with the exception of the term "infrastructure" – which in this case means a methodology (software or application) for digitally placing the boxes, lines and words on a white background without having to use pen or pencil).

(Here I'm waiting anxiously for the software folks to step forward and voice their willingness to contribute to the development of such a program / application.)

However, in addition to these two paths into the content of the web site I'm also hopeful that this site provides access to any number of writings or tools that are of interest to the viewer .... whether or not they are interested in the process of creating IdeaGrams.

A note from my background:

*My "high school" will: 1967: (Berkeley, California): I, Dennis Starkovich, being of questioning and thoughtful mind, do hereby bequeath to anybody who is willing to seek it, an enlightened spirit, and with it, the hope that whatever person who may thus become an individual, does not incur damnation at the hands of the powers that be.*

No doubt these were the thoughts of an immature, angry young man. Having lived through the events of the last fifty years I feel the need to express an apology. Although I most certainly had a blue collar up-bringing, the vast disconnect in comparing my feelings toward life to so many dispossessed in the world does shame me at the comparison and, at the least, helps me to better understand the sorrow, anguish and anger being expressed in so many areas throughout the world.

Nevertheless, I'm a true believer in accepting the absolute truth and necessity for what is and has been taking place in my life and the lives of others. I enjoyed Carlos Santana's comment: "They used to call us seekers .... Now we are finders."

I invite you to join in and share the search .... all manner of subjects will be welcome. For myself, I believe that truth is where you search for it.