Extreme Thinking

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Rule: If a card has a vowel on one side, then it must have an even number on the other side.

Which cards would you need to check, in order to determine whether this rule is being obeyed?
Rule: If a person is drinking alcohol, then they must be at least 18.

Which people would you need to check up with, in order to determine whether this rule is being obeyed?
Most people pick these cards:

Rule: If a card has a vowel on one side, then it must have an even number on the other side.

It doesn’t matter what’s on the other side of the “2” card.

It could be either a vowel... or a consonant.

You do need to check the other side of the “1” card - if it’s a vowel, the rule is false...

... if it’s a consonant, the rule is okay.
Contrast:

**Rule:** If a card has a vowel on one side, then it must have an even number on the other side.

**Rule:** If a person is drinking alcohol, then they must be at least 18.
Alan Kay: “A change of perception is worth 80 IQ points.”
Principle 1: Effective learning requires a strong sense of purpose and meaning.


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Balance three things:

1. Development of a common understanding that enables one to fit into a community.
2. Development of unique abilities.
3. Contribution to a cause larger than oneself.
Principle 2: Effective learning requires a long-term vision of what you’re going to do, and how you’re going to do it.
Ralph Waldo Emerson:
“It is easy in the world to live after the world’s opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.”
Principle 3: Effective learning can be facilitated by changing our social roles, or creating new social roles for ourselves, to reinforce the behaviour we are trying to learn.
Ben Franklin

Questions for the Junto:

“Have you lately heard of any citizen’s thriving well, and by what means?”

“Have you lately observed any encroachments on the just liberties of the people?”
Summary

**Principle 1**: Effective learning requires a strong sense of **purpose and meaning**.

**Principle 2**: Effective learning requires a **long-term vision** of what you’re going to do, and **how** you’re going to do it.

**Principle 3**: Effective learning can be facilitated by **changing our social roles**, or **creating new social roles** for ourselves, to reinforce the behaviour we are trying to learn.

**Weblog for discussion group on doing research:**

http://www.qinfo.org/people/nielsen/blog/