Trainer Tip: Managing Resistance

Issue

Students can seem to resist your training by being "difficult".

Solution

Identifying the type of resistance may help to avoid or mitigate it.

Managing Change Managing Resistance



Types of Resistance	Strategies
Technical - lack of understanding (most common) Manifestation: detailed questions, feeling of inadequacy or stupidity	Technical: Provide information (advantages) Education on tools/process Involvement in the process
Political - threat to status quo (20% of resistors will never change) Manifestation: perceive change as a loss (have to do something different)	Political: Identify with the loss Stress WIFM (what's in it for them)
Organizational - threat to sense of control, pride, ego Manifestation: not invented here	Organizational Modify change effort to involve resistor (ownership, accountability for aspects)
Individual - individual is experiencing high stress - overwhelmed personally and/or professionally Manifestation: too many priorities, death in family, new child, new home, etc.	Modify change effort to reduce fear and stress - adjust timelines, negotiate additional resources, adjust priorities, subdivide responsibilities, etc.

Source: Making Six Sigma Last: Managing the Balance Between Cultural and Technical Change, George Eckes, 2001, ch. 3.



Results

Understanding resistance helps with challenging students.