

Decision Mapping

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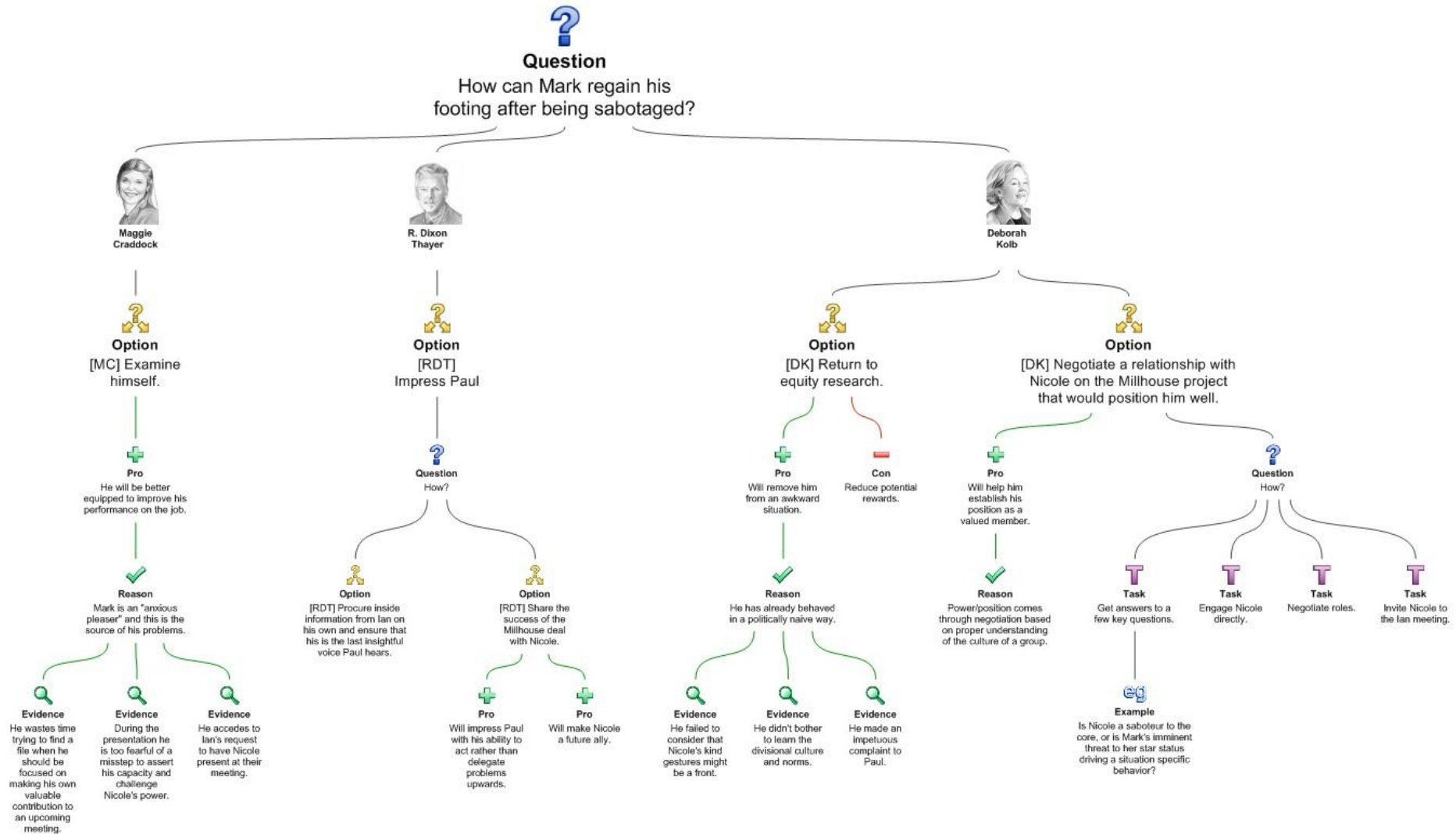
What is Decision Mapping?

- “When confronted with two courses of action I jot down on a piece of paper all the arguments in favor of each one, then on the opposite side I write the arguments against each one. Then by weighing the arguments pro and con and cancelling them out, one against the other, I take the course indicated by what remains.” – Benjamin Franklin

What is Decision Mapping?

- Explicitly declaring the options, sub-options, pros, cons, questions, arguments, and evidence, as well as the relationships between these.
- Laying out the options in an organized map

Example of a Decision Map



Why use Decision Mapping?

- Helps improve proportions of correct decisions by improving thinking process
- Helps people understand the decisions being made and the options
 - Tries to remove cognitive biases
- Helps communicate rationale behind a decision

What does this have to do with Logic?

- Set rules for constructing map
- System expects a fairly thorough and explicit listing of variables and rules
- Removes personal biases
- Explicitly shows rationale behind conclusions

Uses for Decision Mapping

- Used for “deliberative decisions” – those that are made by weighing the options and the arguments
- Not so useful for intuitive “blink” decisions, such as a driver swerving to avoid hitting a dog
- Business decisions, board rooms
- Large companies, non-profits, government entities

More Information

- <http://timvangelder.com>
- <http://www.austhinkconsulting.com>