



# Unglued

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## Finishing Things

OK, I'll admit it. I don't get near as much creative enjoyment from finishing a project as I do from starting it. As a result, my life (and work space) sometimes becomes cluttered with unfinished business. I don't remember this, but I'll bet my mother had to tell me over and over, “put away your toys before you start something else.”

My artist friend and teacher, Susan Gallacher ([www.susangallacher.com](http://www.susangallacher.com)) gave me an idea this week. “Set time aside one day a week to just finish things you've started,” she suggested. I immediately put her suggestion to work. After completing follow-up tasks from a recent meeting, finishing a painting, and filing papers after bill paying, I am energized by a sense of satisfaction!

Author Robert Fritz (**Creating**, 1991, Fawcett Columbine Books) describes steps in the creative process, one of which is “completion.” He says it's important to get in the habit of finishing projects, declaring an end so that you can move on to the next. Just as I was energized by completing some leftover tasks and projects, Fritz says we build creative momentum as we set deadlines for ourselves and complete each step leading to the final conclusion of the project.

Fritz says that organizations, too, fall into the bad habit of not finishing things. Have you ever been in a meeting in which an issue is beaten to death with discussion but no one seems willing to make the decision that will lay the issue to rest? Here are some ways you as a leader, member, or facilitator, can help bring closure to the issue:

1. Ask, “Is there more information we need before we can make a decision? If so, who will take responsibility for getting that information and by when?”
2. Ask for a quick “fist or five” poll for consensus on the issue. (A fist means you agree with the proposal on the table; one finger means you have minor concerns; all five fingers raised means you have major concerns that you need addressed. Ask those with fingers raised to express their concerns.)
3. Make sure everyone has an opportunity to speak to the issue by asking each person, in turn, for their comments.

If you'd like help de-cluttering your meetings, or finding the motivation to complete unfinished projects, send me an email ([sue@cocreativeworks.com](mailto:sue@cocreativeworks.com)). If you have tips to share, email those too.

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