

“Smart failure for a fast-changing world” TEDtalk by Eddie Obeng,

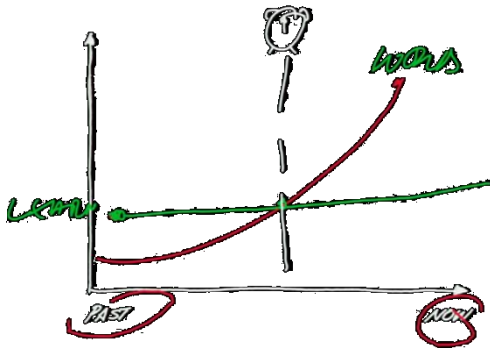
Answer all of the following on a separate sheet of paper. Your answers should be 2-3 sentences each.

1. Explain what Obeng means when he says, “in the 21st century. Somebody or something has changed the rules about how our world works.” Do you agree or disagree with this observation? Have the rules in your world changed? Explain.
2. Read the following excerpt from Obeng’s presentation:

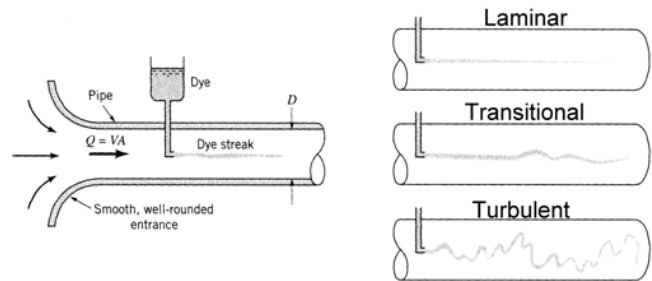
“People are supposed to be good at making stuff happen. However, if I use as an example a family of five going on holiday, if you can imagine this, all the way from London all the way across to Hong Kong, what I want you to think about is their budget is only 3,000 pounds of expenses. What actually happens is, if I compare this to the average real project, average real successful project, the family actually end up in Makassar, South Sulawesi, at a cost of 4,000 pounds, whilst leaving two of the children behind. What I’m trying to explain to you is, there are things which don’t make sense to us.”

Question: In your own words, explain what Obeng is arguing with this example.

3. Explain this chart:



4. “What’s happened in this world of pipe is somebody has flipped it. They’ve changed the rules from laminar to turbulent. All the rules are gone. In that environment, instantly, all the possibilities which turbulence brings are available, and it’s not the same as laminar. And if we didn’t have that green ink, you’d never notice. And I think this is our challenge, because somebody has actually increased — and it’s probably you guys with all your tech and stuff — the speed, the scale and the density of interaction.” (8:34)



How can Education change in order to keep up with the pace of change?

5. Read the following excerpt from Obeng’s presentation:

“You see, in reality, there are two ways you can fail in our new world. One, you’re doing something that you should follow a procedure to, and it’s a very difficult thing, you’re sloppy, you get it wrong. How should you be treated? You should probably be fired. On the other hand, you’re doing something new, no one’s ever done before, you get it completely wrong. How should you be treated? Well, free pizzas! You should be treated better than the people who succeed. It’s called smart failure.”

Question: What is a smart Failure? Give an example.