

Developing Creative Thinking Skills

Brad Hokanson [brad@umn.edu]
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- **Introduction:** The challenge and history 5m
- **Evaluating Creativity:** Starting with yours 10m
- **Defining Creativity** 10m
- **Examples:** 5m
- **Banana exercise:** groups 15m
- **Idea Relay:** groups 15m

"Creativity is the generation of new ideas – either new ways of looking at existing problems, or of seeing new opportunities...."

Sir George Cox, 2005

Creativity is a skill that requires practice and dedication over time. Included are some exercises to continue over the next three months or for tomorrow morning. Improvement in creativity can occur through practice as well as changes in lifestyle and engagement in a supportive environment.

Resources

IBM survey: In an increasing complex world, what is the most important skill? <http://z.umn.edu/ibmceostudy>

Newsweek article: Status of creativity in the United States.

<http://z.umn.edu/newsweekcreativity>

Brad Hokanson: *Developing Creative Thinking Skills*, 2017. Routledge.

Kyung Hee Kim (2011) *The Creativity Crisis...* *Creativity Research Journal* 23(4) 285-295.

Kyung Hee Kim (2016). *The creativity challenge: How we can recapture American innovation*. Prometheus.

Steven Johnson: (2010) *Where Good Ideas Come From*. Riverhead Books.

Keith Sawyer: (2007) *Group Genius: The creative power of collaboration*. Basic Books.

Jonah Lehrer: (2012). *Imagine*. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt [may be out of print]

Teresa Amabile: *How to Kill Creativity*, *Harvard Business Journal* [September-October 1998]

A good idea generation resource:

<http://www.mycoted.com/Category:CreativityTechniques>

Robert Epstein: Free online creativity tests

<http://MyCreativitySkills.com/>

Differents: Plan in advance and initiate your own DSD; Eat, Walk, Sleep, Give, Talk. Complete one per week

Toothbrushing exercise: each time you brush your teeth, pick an object and come up with ideas for that object: brain writing, maximize, minimize, attribute list. Ten alternative uses for each.

Top Ten List:

- 1. Believe in your own creativity.** Everyone is creative, and recognizing your own creativity helps you be more creative.
- 2. Creativity and intelligence are dynamic and can be increased.** Neither is fixed at birth, and increasing either takes practice and conscious effort.
- 3. Develop a habit of divergence;** do things that are different, more challenging, and unusual. As Mae West said: "When caught between two evils, I always like to try the one I've never tried before."
- 4. Redefine the problem.** Or find it.
- 5. Develop multiple answers to any problem;** at least ten. The only wrong answer is one answer. Provide as many answers as is possible and more than required. Linus Pauling said "The best way to have a good answer is to have a lot of answers."
- 6. Have an ongoing broad exposure to other ideas** and areas and tolerate the ambiguity of other ideas. Change your environment, your social contacts, and change yourself.
- 7. Sell your ideas.** Advance and improve your ideas.
- 8. Persist through obstacles and mistakes;** take on challenges where success is not guaranteed.
- 9. Specifically, allow time,** purposely daydream.
- 10. Analyze your ideas and your thinking.**
- 11. Figure out what you love and do it.**

CPS: Examples from current classes

<http://www.instagram.com/cpsmoooc>

<http://z.umn.edu/cpsDSDs>

Binder Clips [your answers on back]



Book: Find "Developing Creative Thinking Skills" on Amazon in paperback or Kindle.