

I Am Not Creative

Many of us put off creative tasks because we feel that we are not capable of creating anything, even good ideas. Somehow, we feel we have lost what came naturally to us as children. Use these strategies to recognize your creative powers and to strengthen them.

Maybe creativity is a bit more ordinary than you think. If you think you need to match the creative powers of great writers and painters, then you will never attempt to create anything. And attempting is the thing. We often judge ourselves and others at how well ideas are executed or whether ideas succeed. But creativity cannot be judgmental, otherwise you risk stifling it. Creativity is about the attempt, the process and not about a product. It is about trying and being free enough to try.

The following is a list of scenarios in which creativity is used in different ways within the career as a teacher. After the example, create your own scenarios of at least three ways you might use creativity in your future career.

Example: Teachers

1. Teachers are extraordinary people, magicians really. Challenged by lack of resources, they are asked commonly to do more with less. They succeed by being creative resource managers and resourceful.
2. Teachers take basic information and repackage it to engage learners. By creating lesson plans, activities, and projects, they are not only talented designers, they are inventors. When they re-purpose ideas or improve upon them, they are innovators.
3. Teachers ensure that no student is left out. They must be creative observers, communicators, and people managers.
4. Teachers must be savvy persuaders. Many students need a reason to learn and teachers are the ones who provide this invaluable call to action. There are many ways to persuade. Teachers use many methods to inspire their students.

Your Career: _____

Creative skills or mindsets

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4.

Hint: Use O*Net Online <https://www.onetonline.org/> or some other occupational research site to help you break down the fundamental components of a career and try to view those components through a creative lens.

Process/Skill Questions

1. Why don't you think you are creative?
2. Why is creativity valued in the workplace?
3. What can you do to improve your creative skills?