

What is creativity?

From *Human Motivation*, 3rd ed., by Robert E. Franken:

- Creativity is defined as the tendency to generate or recognize ideas, alternatives, or possibilities that may be useful in solving problems, communicating with others, and entertaining ourselves and others. (page 396)
- Three reasons why people are motivated to be creative:
 1. need for novel, varied, and complex stimulation
 2. need to communicate ideas and values
 3. need to solve problems (page 396)
- In order to be creative, you need to be able to view things in new ways or from a different perspective. Among other things, you need to be able to generate new possibilities or new alternatives. Tests of creativity measure not only the number of alternatives that people can generate but the uniqueness of those alternatives. the ability to generate alternatives or to see things uniquely does not occur by chance; it is linked to other, more fundamental qualities of thinking, such as flexibility, tolerance of ambiguity or unpredictability, and the enjoyment of things heretofore unknown. (page 394)

From *Creativity - Beyond the Myth of Genius*, by Robert W. Weisberg.

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- ..."creative" refers to novel products of value, as in "The airplane was a creative invention." "Creative" also refers to the person who produces the work, as in, ? Picasso was creative." "Creativity," then refers both to the capacity to produce such works, as in "How can we foster our employees' creativity?" and to the activity of generating such products, as in "Creativity requires hard work." (page 4)
- All who study creativity agree that for something to be creative, it is not enough for it to be novel: it must have value, or be appropriate to the cognitive demands of the situation." (page 4)

From *Creativity - Flow and the Psychology of Discovery and Invention* by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi.

- Ways that "creativity" is commonly used:
 1. Persons who express unusual thoughts, who are interesting and stimulating - in short, people who appear to unusually bright.
 2. People who experience the world in novel and original ways. These are (personally creative) individuals whose perceptions are fresh, whose judgements are insightful, who may make important discoveries that only they know about.
 3. Individuals who have changes our culture in some important way. Because their achievement are by definition

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3. Individuals who have changes our culture in some important way. Because their achievement are by definition public, it is easier to write about them. (e.g., Leonardo, Edison, Picasso, Einstein, etc.) (pages 25-26)
- The Systems Model of Creativity: (pages 27-28)
 1. the creative **domain**, which is nested in culture - the symbolic knowledge shared by a particular society or by humanity as a whole (e.g., visual arts)
 2. the **field**, which includes all the [gatekeepers](#) of the domain (e.g., art critics, art teachers, curators of museums, etc.)
 3. the individual **person**, who using the symbols of the given domain (such as music, engineering, business, mathematics) has a new idea or sees a new pattern, and when this novelty is selected by the appropriate field for inclusion into the relevant domain
 - Creativity is any act, idea, or product that changes an existing domain, or that transforms an existing domain into a new one...What counts is whether the novelty he or she produces is accepted for inclusion in the domain." (page 28)
 - Characteristics of the creative personality: (pages 58-73)
 1. Creative individuals have a great deal of energy, but they are also often quiet and at rest.
 2. Creative individuals tend to be smart,

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1. Creative individuals have a great deal of energy, but they are also often quiet and at rest.
2. Creative individuals tend to be smart, yet also naive at the same time.
3. Creative individuals have a combination of playfulness and discipline, or responsibility and irresponsibility.
4. Creative individuals alternate between imagination and fantasy ant one end, and rooted sense of reality at the other.
5. Creative people seem to harbor opposite tendencies on the continuum between extroversion and introversion.
6. Creative individuals are also remarkable humble and proud at the same time.
7. Creative individuals to a certain extent escape rigid gender role stereotyping and have a tendency toward androgyny.
8. Generally, creative people are thought to be rebellious and independent.
9. Most creative persons are very passionate about their work, yet they can be extremely objective about it as well.
10. The openness and sensitivity of creative individuals often exposes them to suffering pain yet also a great deal of enjoyment.

