



Republic of Iraq

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific
Research

University of Tikrit

College of Education for Human Sciences

Department of English

Second year / select readings

What Is Creative Thinking

By ; *Asst . lec. Sara M. Abdullah*

Introduction about Creative Thinking:

In recent years there has been an increasing recognition that creativity and creative thinking should be fostered as valued outcomes of schooling, either in their own right, or as part of a set of so-called '21st-century skills' (Partnership for 21st Century Skills 2009; Griffin & Care, 2012; Kereluik et al., 2013; Adams, et al., 2015). While the importance of creative thinking is now widely accepted, it remains the case that there is a lack of agreement regarding a definition of creative thinking. Consequently, there is no universally adopted framework to guide its teaching and assessment. It is in this context that ACER has reviewed the extensive literature on creative thinking and developed both a definition and a framework that synthesize and harmonize existing theory and research on creative thinking. This framework has been developed to address the challenges associated with teaching and assessing creative thinking. The framework outlines creative thinking processes along prescribed strands and aspects informed by a sound evidentiary basis. The aspects contained within the framework are designed to provide foci for teaching and form the basis of assessment.

What Is Creative Thinking?

Creative thinking refers to using abilities and soft skills to come up with new solutions to problems. Creative thinking skills are techniques used to look at the issue from different and creative angles, using the right tools to assess it and develop a plan. The focus on creativity and innovation is important because most problems might require approaches that have never been created or tried before. It is a highly valued skill to have individually and one that businesses should always aspire to have among their ranks. After all, the word creativity means a phenomenon where something new is created. Creative thinking is a skill and, like any other, it needs constant exercise to stay sharp. You need to regularly expose yourself to situations in which a new idea is needed and surround yourself with like-minded people to achieve this goal. Creative thinking involves the ability to

generate unique and original ideas by making connections between seemingly unrelated concepts. It is a cognitive process that allows individuals to think outside the box and explore unconventional solutions to problems.

One aspect of creative thinking is divergent thinking, which involves generating multiple ideas and possibilities. This can be achieved through brainstorming sessions

2

or free association exercises, where individuals let their minds wander and explore different perspectives.

Another aspect is convergent thinking, which involves evaluating and selecting the best ideas from the pool of generated ideas. This requires critical thinking skills to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of each idea.

Creativity can be nurtured through various techniques such as mind mapping, where ideas are visually represented and connected to stimulate new connections and associations. It can also be enhanced through exposure to diverse experiences, engaging in creative activities like painting or writing, and seeking inspiration from different sources such as art, literature, or nature.

Creative thinking is not limited to artistic pursuits; It is a valuable skill in various fields, including problem-solving, innovation, and entrepreneurship. It allows individuals to approach challenges with fresh perspectives, find unconventional solutions, and adapt to changing circumstances.

What Is the Main Purpose of Creativity?

1. **Sparking Innovation:** Creative thinking helps generate fresh ideas and innovative solutions to problems.
2. **Enhancing Problem-Solving Skills:** It enables us to approach challenges from different perspectives and find effective solutions.

3. **Fostering Adaptability:** Creative thinking encourages flexibility and adaptability in navigating complex situations.
4. **Encouraging Expression:** It allows for self-expression and the exploration of unique ideas and perspectives.
5. **Cultivating Collaboration:** Creative thinking promotes collaboration and teamwork by fostering an open and inclusive environment.

2

Creative Thinking Techniques

As you have just learned, creative thinking can be triggered by some widely used techniques. These are effective methods to help you come up with new ideas, test them under new environments, and count on other people's input to make them even more innovative. Some of the best examples of creative thinking skills may include: lateral-thinking, visual reading, out-of-the-box thinking, copywriting, artistic creativity, problem-solving, analytical mind, and divergent thinking.

Examples Of Creativity Skills

Besides these creative thinking techniques we presented in this chapter, there are several skills you'll need to develop to enjoy the advantages of the techniques. Some of the creativity skills may include:

- experimentation
- opposing views
- asking questions
- communication
- organization

What Are the Main Benefits of Creative Thinking?

Developing your creative thinking skills is highly beneficial for any field of work. After all, every area needs people that can come up with the best solutions to the everyday problems that arise and creativity is critical to do that.

You can experience advantages such as these by developing creative thinking skills:

- ability to create the best solutions to daily demands, which provides value to clients and your own business;
- improvement on problem-solving for not only work-related matters but also those in your personal life;

4

- higher workplace involvement in daily activities and engagement, which is beneficial to a healthier environment;
- a better understanding of data — also known as and how to present it through
 - focus on self-improvement as you and your teammates will develop more soft skills.
 - more effective teamwork and bonding, since people grow used to bouncing off original ideas and learn each other's creative traits.

How to Develop Creative Thinking Skills?

Now that you know exactly what creative thinking skills are, the next step in this process involves learning how to work on them. After all, stagnation can be the biggest threat to your creativity, as it requires constant stimulation.

Check out below the best ways to develop creative thinking skills for yourself.

Conclusion

we can say that the main purpose of creativity is to enrich and enhance our lives in various ways. Creativity allows us to express our ideas and emotions in unique and innovative ways. It helps us solve problems and challenges using new and original approaches. Creativity also promotes critical thinking, analysis, and evaluation. It fosters collaboration and positive interaction with others. Additionally, creativity adds beauty and excitement to our daily lives. It fuels innovation and advancement in various fields such as science, technology, and the arts. Ultimately, creativity adds a magical and enjoyable touch to our lives, enabling us to engage with the world in new and inventive ways.