

# Creative thinking



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Running Head: CREATIVE THINKING Creative Thinking Creative Thinking In the past Creative Thinking has often been relegated to the artist, poet or sculpture as an expression of deeper feeling and insights rather than a way to effectively address problem solving. However, in the present it has taken on a much higher status and is included in any discussion of critical thinking. It began to be noted that most geniuses often came up with their most important ideas when they jumped the track of linear, logical thought. Einstein won the Nobel prize for Physics for his work on the photo-electric effect, the idea of which came to him in a dream where he was floating backwards in a beam of light. Brainstorming has become part of every management problem solving issue and lateral thinking is now part of any well-rounded planning process.

Human beings seem to be born with the capacity to think creatively. Children, in the guise of play, begin to form their personality and their mind sets very early on in life. They creatively experiment with their own limbs as well as with the world around them. It is believed that this creative process in children is one, among many, reasons they can develop skills more quickly than adults. Their capacity for language acquisition is never greater than before the age of eight.

Creative thinking often gives us a shortcut to problem solving, by offering a more indirect way to a solution:

A flash of insight, a clever way to do something, a realization of some truth about ourselves--all signal the activation of the creative mind. We deploy its enormous potential for creating new solutions in our lives when we free ourselves from many of our automatic reactions, reeducate ourselves to speak in original ideas not slogans, suspend judgment, avoid arguments and

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ego battles, listen more attentively, and think in terms of options instead of one right way. (Albrecht, 2002, p. 39)

As illustrated by Einstein's example, our brains tend to think in imagery. Words and language are the process by which we communicate and we are often forgetful about using imagery and our imaginations. Thinking in words, according to most researchers, comes after the brain has associated imagery with those words. Pattern recognition, which our brains are expert at, kick in but often concepts can become so concrete in words that we leave ourselves no other way of looking at it. By deconstructing that process with techniques like brainstorming, random input or provocation, derails our usually linear thought processes into more creative avenues.

In the present study, imaging ability had a significant influence on creativity. Good imagers scored significantly better than poor imagers on Torrance tests of fluency, originality, elaboration, and resistance to premature closure. (González, Campos & Pérez, 1997, p. 361)

This is also an insight into scientific thinking as well. Many scientists use thought experiments to help them visualize and conceptualize what they are trying to discover or convey. For example, Schrödinger's Cat in the box is his attempt to explain a very complicated concept in quantum mechanics with a visual image rather than equations (Michalko, 2003) and no one can doubt that Leonardo Da Vinci's genius was also inspired more by imagination and imagery, than logical thinking.

Creative thinking is part of the process of critical thinking, often without one even being aware of it. But now, more emphasis is being placed on this more lateral form of evaluation and problem solving. With a more direct and appreciable connection to our creative side, human beings in any discipline

now have a more holistic and thorough process by which to approach any critical thinking concept.

#### References

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