

Instructional Questions for Teaching the Creative Process

Phase Defined	Questions to Lead the Process	Questions to Guide Learners' Self-Discovery
<p>Preparation: Identifying an area of curiosity or a problem for further investigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your passions? • What's interesting to you? • What are the small (or big) things you wish you could fix for yourself or your loved ones? • What natural phenomena need more study or explanation? • What message would you like to send to the world? • What legacy would you like to leave behind? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific strategies did you use while preparing? • What was hard and easy to do? • What helped you the most? • What did you do to slow your own process? What stopped you from moving forward? • How could you improve your efforts in this phase? • What have you learned about yourself?
<p>Incubation: Pondering ideas by exploring intuition, synthesizing concepts, imagining possibilities, and preliminarily constructing possible products, processes, or solutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are you noticing? • What's interesting about that? • What would happen if . . . ? • If there were no hurdles, what could you do? • What's a radically different way of looking at that? • How many possibilities can you consider? • How many different connections can you make? • What is your intuition telling you? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific strategies did you use while pondering your ideas? • What tools or templates helped you? • When did you have your best thoughts? What was the time of day or the activities you were engaged in or the location or setting when you could think best? • Did daydreaming or playing help you at all? • Did you procrastinate at all? If you did, why? Did it help? • How could you improve your efforts in this phase? • What have you learned about yourself?
<p>Illumination: Developing realizations, insights, epiphanies, and inspiration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's captivating about that? • What do you see that others might not? • What did you learn that others might not know yet? • How might what you understand now make the world a better place for others? • What odd combinations just might work? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific strategies did you use while becoming inspired or developing your insights? • Were you aware of a defining moment when you knew what you needed to do next? • If you didn't have a defining moment, how did you make decisions about the best ways to proceed? • What criteria were you using to determine your next steps? • How could you improve your efforts in this phase? • What have you learned about yourself?

Phase Defined	Questions to Lead the Process	Questions to Guide Learners' Self-Discovery
<p>Verification: Seeking feedback and validation during the formative phase for whether or not potential solutions are worth pursuing; self-assessing; and making personal decisions regarding final steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your criteria for quality? • Where would feedback be most helpful to you? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On one criterion? • On a single part of the project? • On the whole thing? • Will others appreciate this work or idea? • Whom can you ask? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whom do you trust to help you? • Who might know the most about this? • How can you get a range of perspectives so you're prepared for the final stage? • What will you do with feedback you don't like? How can you make sure you get some feedback that forces you to examine your work carefully? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific strategies did you use while verifying your ideas? • Did you get enough feedback? • Was the feedback you received helpful? • How are you responding to positive feedback? To negative feedback? • What are you doing with the feedback you don't appreciate? Is your thought process helpful in that moment? • Were you accurate in your self-assessment, or were you too hard or easy on yourself? How will you know? • Are you clear about your next steps? • How could you improve your efforts in this phase? • What have you learned about yourself?
<p>Implementation: Moving idea from concept to reality by producing the product, process, or solution to share with others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it finished? • Is it working? Or is it pleasing? • Are you ready to share it? • Are others appreciating it? Using it? Understanding it? • How do you feel about it? • What makes you proud of it? • Even though you're done, what might you have done differently in hindsight? • What have you learned through this process? • What comes next? Where do you begin again? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific strategies or actions did you employ while finishing? • What was hard and easy to do? • What (or who) helped you the most? • What did you do that slowed your own process? What stopped you from moving forward? • How could you improve your efforts in this phase? • What have you learned about yourself?