

# Creativity and Courage



# Courage

“You need courage to be creative. Just as soon as you have a new idea you are in a minority of one. And being in a minority of one is uncomfortable – it takes courage!”

“Outstanding creative achievement always involves a step in to the unknown. .. the bigger the breakthrough the achievement represents, the bigger becomes the step into the unknown.

Such achievement involves being different, testing known limits, attempting difficult jobs, making honest mistakes and responding to challenge. All of these behaviour patterns require courage. “

“Instead of just adapting or adjusting to their environments, creative people deliberately go about changing those environments. They commit themselves to goals that require sustained expenditures of intellectual emotional, and physical energy, plus continued changes in behaviour. “

# Science....

“...scientific taboos, like social taboos, remain intact not so much by rational argument as by a common attitude among scientists. Torrance warns that ‘any member of the scientific guild who does not adhere strictly to the taboo is looked upon as queer; he is suspected of not adhering to the scientific standards of critical thinking.’ Similar taboos exist in every field of human endeavour.”

In a test of 'creative' high school students in America, psychologists found that they demonstrated high scores on the Experimental Intuitive, and Resistance to Social Pressure scales far more frequently than a comparison group.

“More people behave more courageously, attempt more difficult tasks, and take more risk in small groups than they do alone or in large groups.”

- A basic requirement for personal courage of any kind is self-confidence (*self-efficacy belief*).
- “Creative people forever test the limits of their abilities, the situation itself, and their reserve resources.”



“The childhoods of Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Albert Einstein, Benjamin Franklin and Richard Byrd...are filled with accounts of attempts to accomplish tasks that were considered by others to be too difficult for them....all inevitably made mistakes, or experienced dangers that placed them in the category of ‘difficult children’ or ‘crazy young people’.”

# The future

“...societies have always been dependent upon a creatively gifted minority for their images of the future.”

# Polak on the future

“All of “man’s” thinking involves a conscious process of dividing his perceptions, feelings, and responses, and sorting them into categories on the time-continuum. His mental capacity to categorize and reorder reality within the self...enable him to be a citizen of two worlds: the present and the imagined.”

“No problem so persistently defies our skill at drawing boundaries as the problem of the future....In the act of searching out the future, Homo sapiens crosses the frontiers of the unknown....He leaves behind the familiar universe of sight and sounds and surveys the universe of the unseen and unheard, continually bringing small fragments of the unknown back with him out of the darkness and adding them to the known.”

“This spiritual overstepping of the boundaries of the unknown is the source of all human creativity.”

“Once he became conscious of creating images of the future, he became a participant in the process of creating this future.”

“The formation of the images of the future depends upon an awareness of the future than makes possible a conscious, voluntary, and responsible choice between alternatives.”

# The Path from Idea to Image



“The future must not only be perceived, it also must be shaped....This image always operates as a projection backward, from the future into the present.”





# Passion

## *Torrance*

“Love of one’s work – of what one is doing – is another rather obvious necessity for a high level of creativity. Having a passionate love for something is probably the key to being courageous.”

“Research has made me increasingly aware of the dreadful importance of falling in love with *something* – a dream, an image of the future. I am convinced that the driving force behind future accomplishments is the image of the future...”