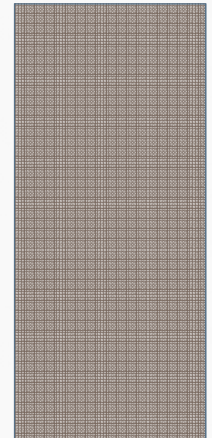


HUMANITIES 001: CREATIVE MINDS

DAY 2



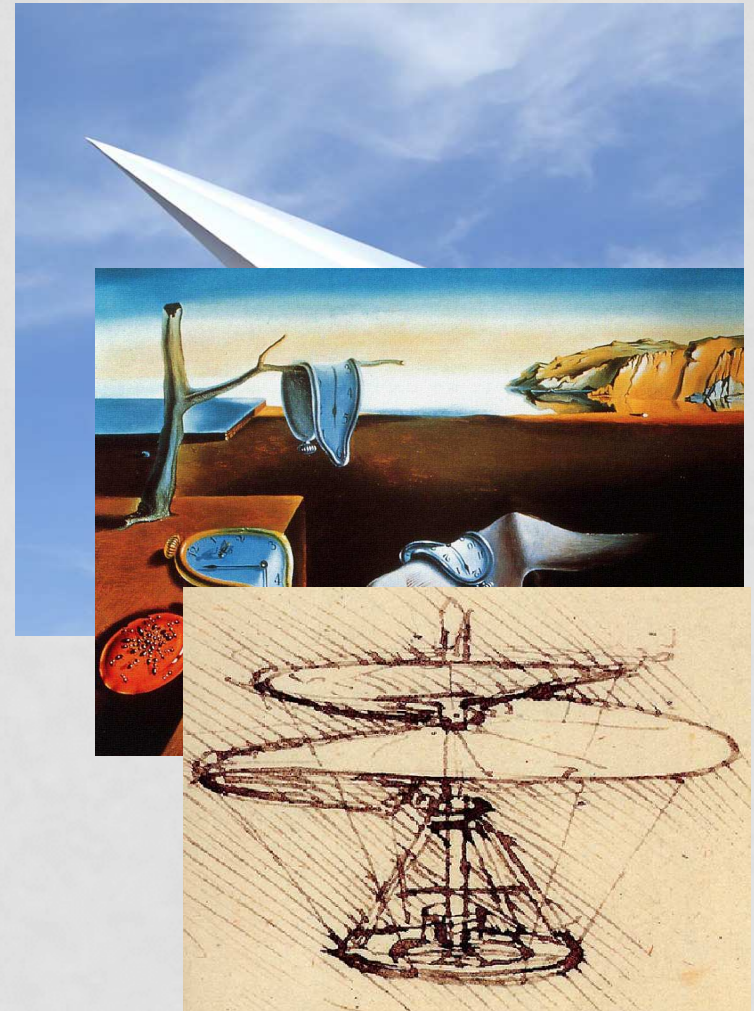
REVIEW: WHAT IS CREATIVITY?

Creativity =

The ability to transcend traditional ideas, rules, patterns, relationships, or the like, and to create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods, interpretations, etc.

Simplified:

1. Going beyond your ordinary world.



WHAT DO “CREATIVE” PEOPLE HAVE IN COMMON?

According to Harvard psychiatry professor Albert Rothenberg:

“The one common bond between all who think differently is their willingness to do so.” (pg 24)

MOTIVATION

May not be all you need, but it’s the one thing we all need to be creative.

Why?

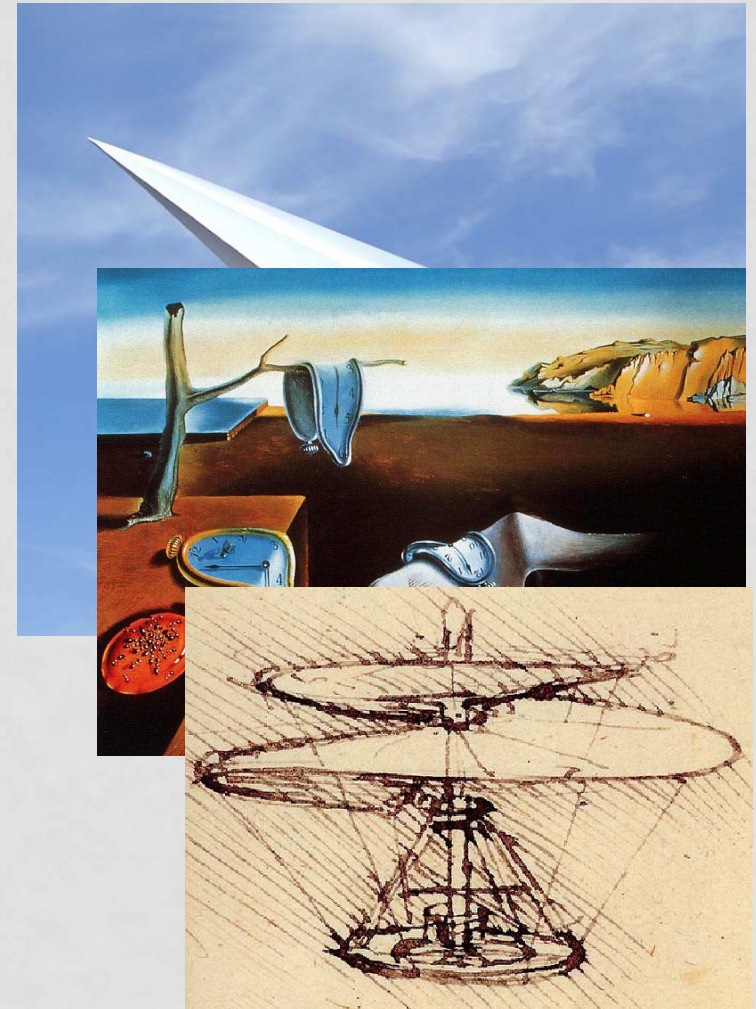
REVIEW: WHAT IS CREATIVITY?

Creativity =

The ability to transcend traditional ideas, rules, patterns, relationships, or the like, and to create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods, interpretations, etc.

Simplified:

1. Going beyond your ordinary world.
2. Going beyond conditioned stories.



WHAT IS CREATIVITY?

Groups:

Need to be in groups 6 or 7.

- Each of you will be given an image that you cannot show to anyone else.
- Describe your image to those in your group.
- The group's task is to arrange the images (without looking at more than your own) in an order that makes sense. Come up with a "story" of what is going on with your images.
- ON ONE PIECE OF PAPER: Describe your group's story. How are you making sense of the images? You will share this with the class.

THE ROOT OF “PROBLEMS” OR “BLOCKS”

Think of the issues and difficulties you had with the assignment:

Identify ways that these issues and difficulties are related to creativity?

1. Need new perspective. Be willing to re-interpret what you think you know.
2. Don't assume you know.
3. Need to change what you focus on, pay attention to, what you think is important.
4. Can't rely on having a supportive environment.

THE ROOT OF “CREATIVE BLOCKS”

1. The inability to see, to imagine, from a different point of view; being limited to our initial, habitual, dominant assumptions and perspectives.

2. A narrow or shallow sense of meaning.

EXAMPLE FROM BOOK: THE ROOT OF “CREATIVE BLOCKS”

A man is born in 1990 and dies in 2010.

According to his death certificate, the man
died when he was 25 years old.

Is this possible?

HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

What's the one common characteristic of creative individuals?

Motivation

Other significant factors to being more creative...

1. Practice / Exercise
2. Understanding The Process

VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

Where does creativity come from?

How does it happen? What is a "creative" mind?



VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

The Creative Genius

Robin Williams

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4t1xqZ78C0>



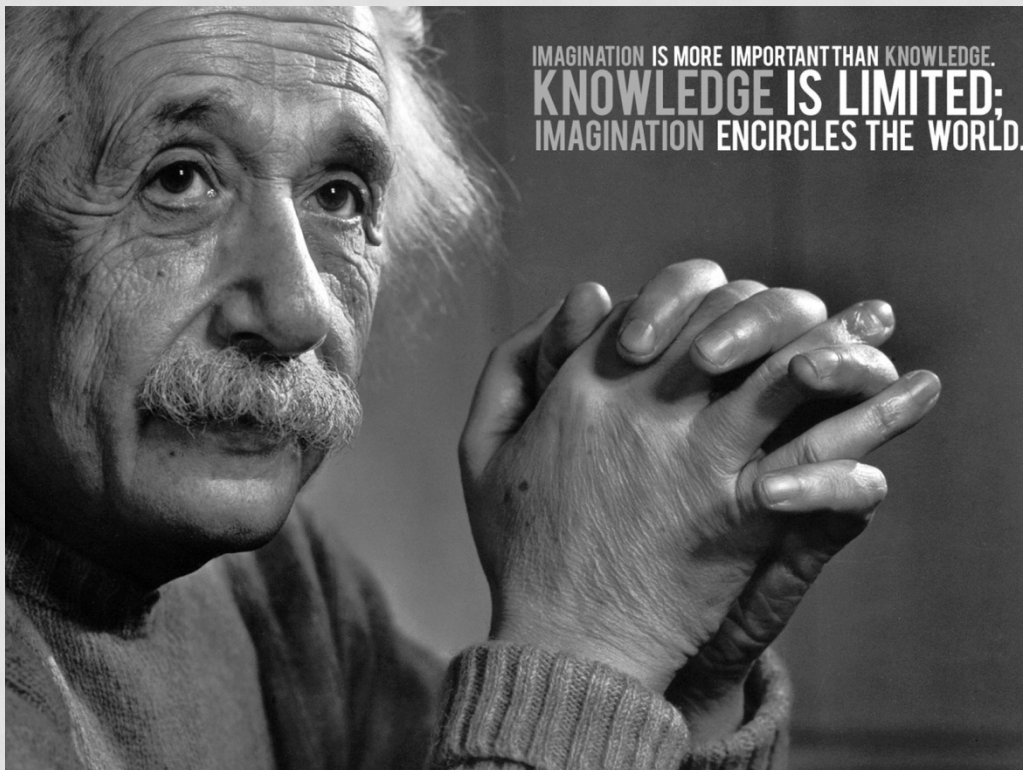
In his high school
yearbook

Voted:
“Least likely to
succeed.”

VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

The Creative Genius

Albert Einstein



Grade teacher described him as being:

“Mentally slow.”

VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

Hard Work & Luck

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Prolific composer, beginning age of 5.



Worked Hard:

- Hands were often sore, crippled, as a result of his hours of practice.

Lucky:

- Born to a father who was a great musician/composer.

VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

Hard Work & Luck

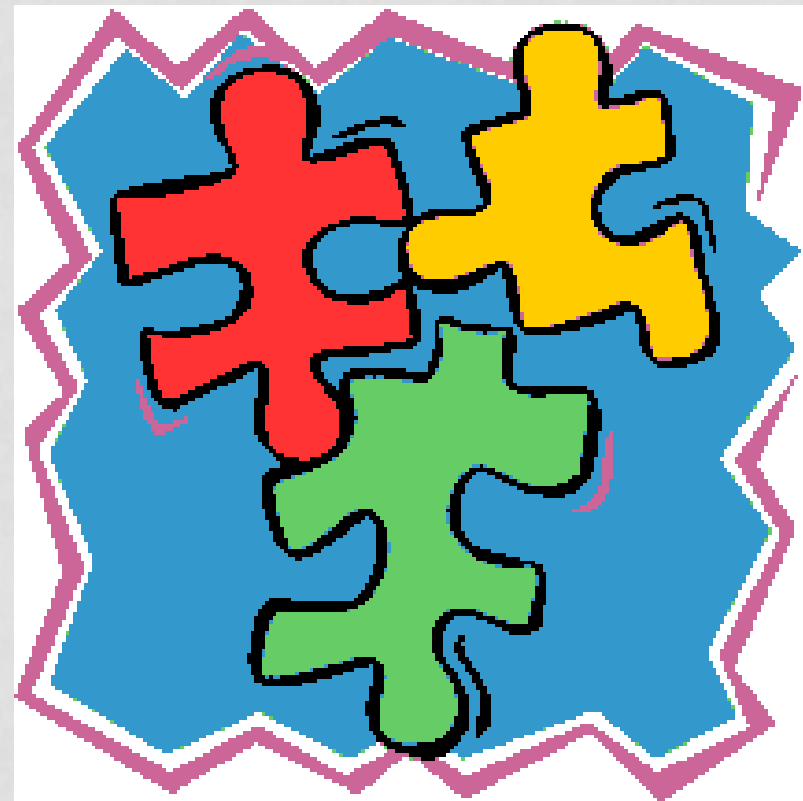
Kellogg Brothers

(Try to relate this idea to the airplane exercise...)



VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

Stepping into Intersecting Streams



VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

Stepping into Intersecting Streams

(Try to relate this idea to the airplane exercise...)

Page 42-43:

“...the creative process could also entail mixing a diversity of ideas and ingredients and observing what unique flavors arise. It may look like the unique combination of ideas of the Minotaur (man/bull) or the diverse array of ingredients found in a Chili Surprise.

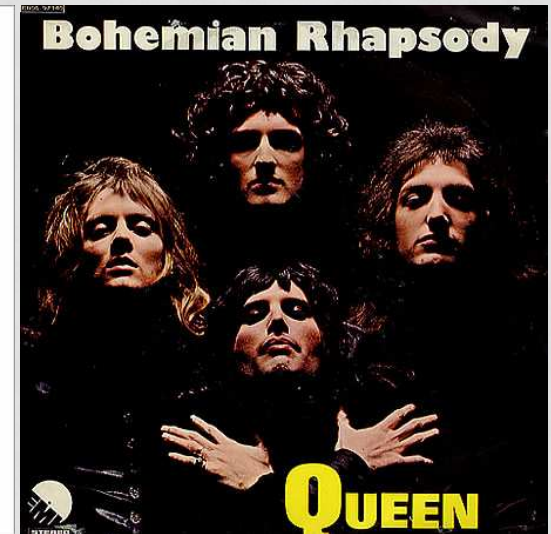
“For instance, you’ll never know what you’ll get by mixing leftover liver and pumpkin pie until you try.

“Had you been crazy enough with your concoctions, you may have even been the first to stumble upon the iced coffee, the protein shake, or the corn dog.”

VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

Stepping into Intersecting Streams

(Try to relate this idea to the airplane exercise...)



How can you make this more likely?

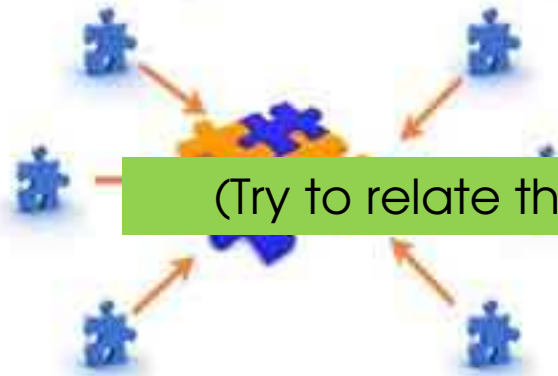
- Work in groups.
- Diversify yourself.

VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

Divergent Thinking: *Step out of the Stream*

Stop looking for the one "right" answer and look for many answers.

Convergent Thinking:



(Try to relate this idea to the airplane exercise...)

Many facts, one right answer

vs.



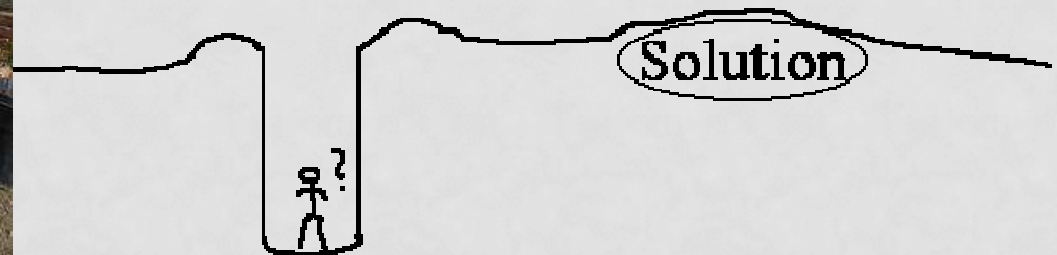
Divergent Thinking



VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

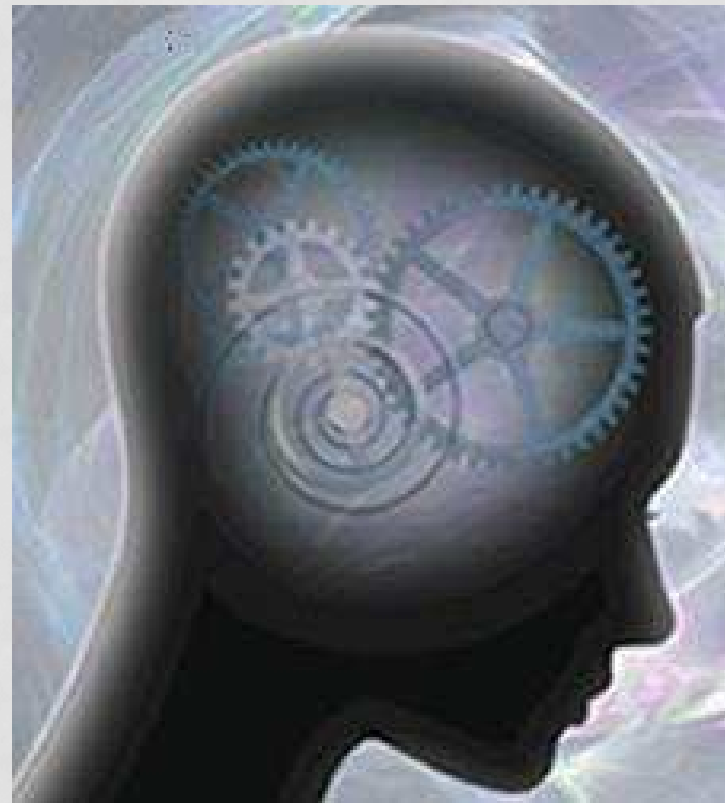
Divergent Thinking: *Step out of the Stream*

Edward de Bono's "Lateral Thinking"



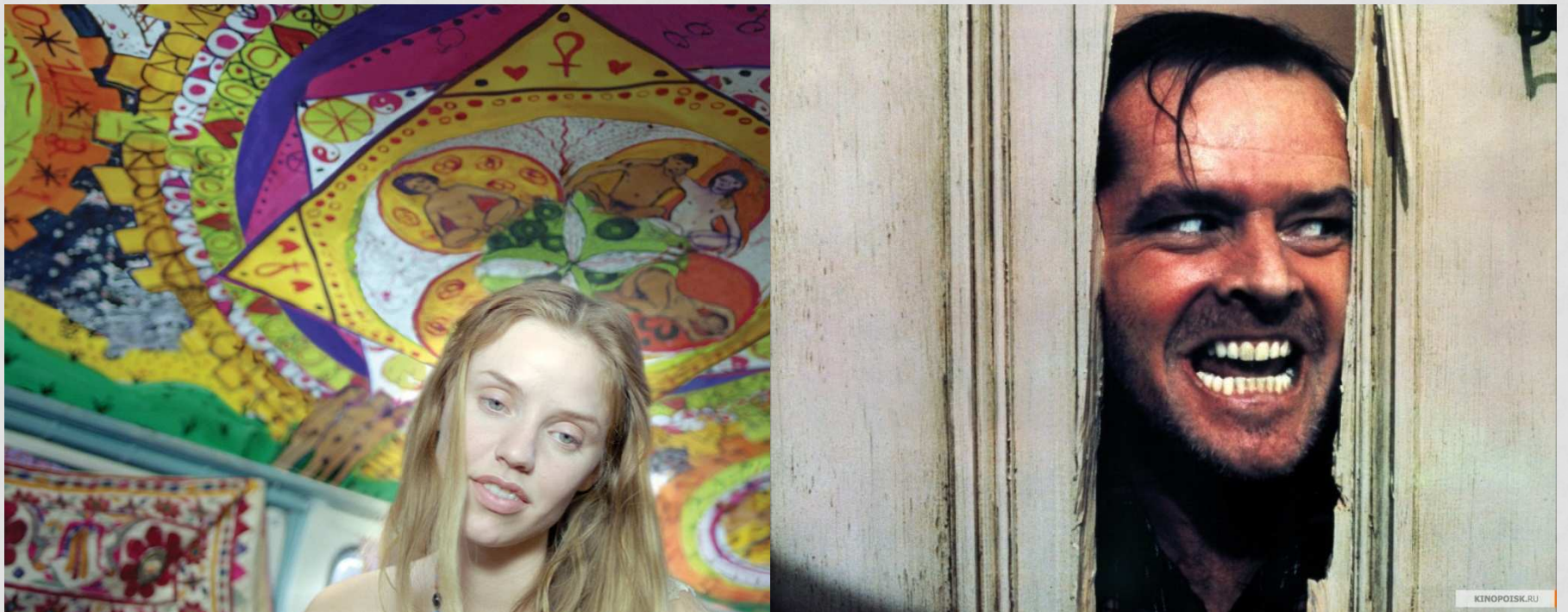
VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

Unconscious Processing



VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

Altered States of Mind



VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

Divine Intervention

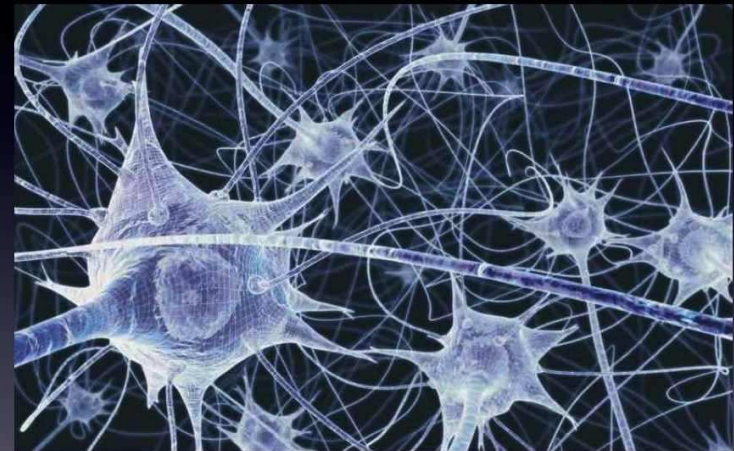


VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS/MIND

Unique Neural Activation Patterns



Neural Networks: Artist Rendition



REVIEW:

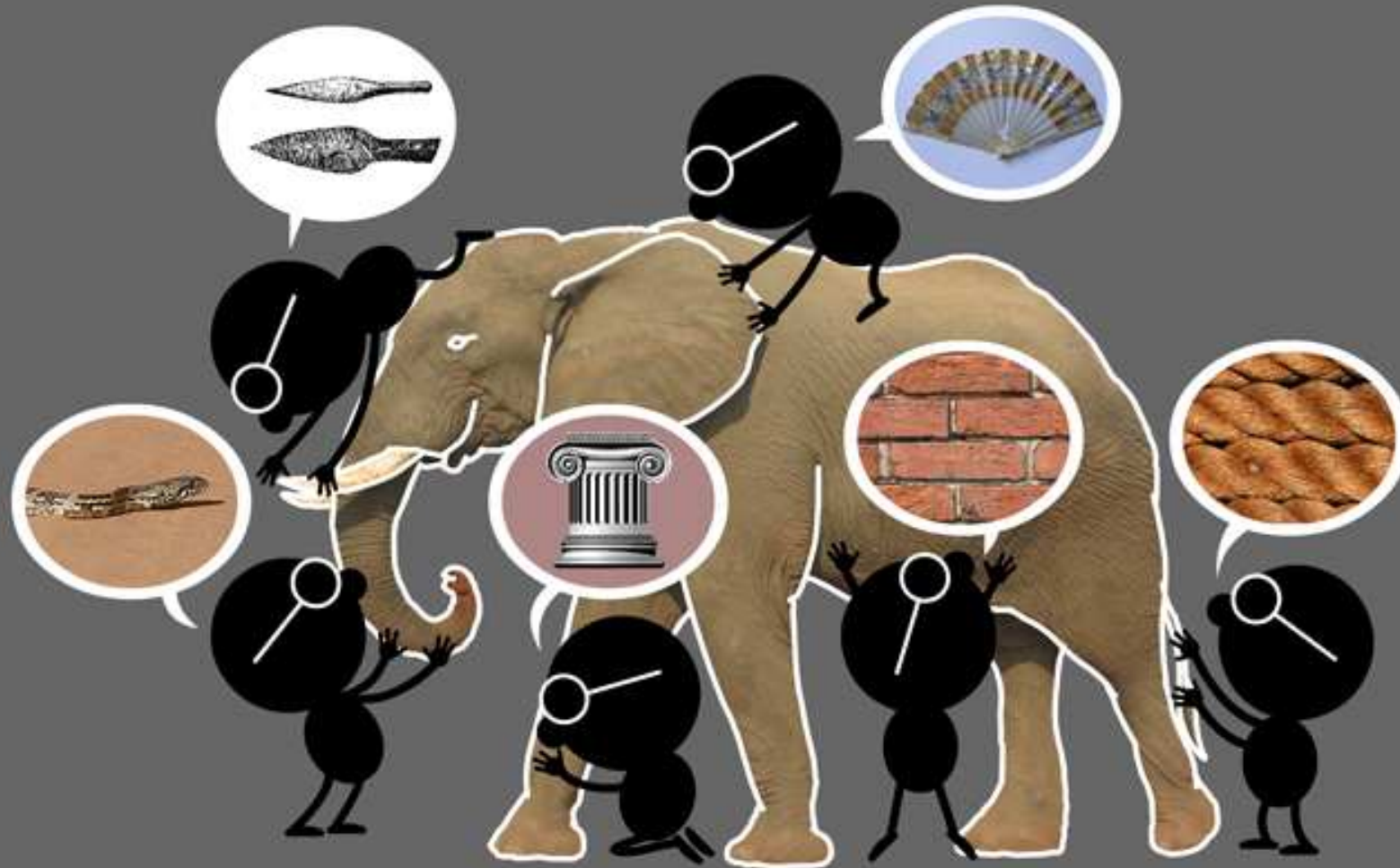
HOW DOES CREATIVITY HAPPEN?

- Creative Genius
- Hard work & Luck
- Stepping into Intersecting Streams
- Lateral Thinking
- Unconscious Processing
- Altered States of Mind
- Divine Inspiration
- Unique Neural Activation Patterns



Why was it important to review various perceptions of creativity?

THE BLIND MEN & THE ELEPHANT: NEED FOR MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES



THE HERO'S JOURNEY

What did Joseph Campbell believe about stories?

Hero "myths" often have the same pattern (simplified):

1. Hero introduced in his/her **Ordinary World**.
2. **Answers the Call** to Adventure.
3. Crosses the Threshold and **Enters the Sea of Possibilities**.
4. **Trials and Tribulations**
5. Approach to the Inmost Cave, **Retrieve the Reward**.
6. The Road Back, **The Returning Home**

- Why do all hero stories share this pattern?
- Psychologist Carl Jung:
 - This is an "archetypal" pattern of what it means to be human.

UNDERSTANDING THE CREATIVE PROCESS AS HERO'S JOURNEY

A Universal Map to Creativity

All creative endeavors, like your project, are similar to this:

1. Hero introduced in his/her **Ordinary World**.
2. **Answers the Call** to Adventure.
3. Crosses the Threshold and **Enters the Sea of Possibilities**.
4. **Trials and Tribulations**
5. Approach to the Inmost Cave, **Retrieve the Reward**.
6. The Road Back, **The Returning Home**

Why use this analogy?

1. **Gives us a Map** that identifies different typical challenges associated with each stage of the creative process.
2. Describes creativity in figurative language.

MID-QUARTER GROUP PROJECT

Creative Role Model

In groups, you will decide on a “creative person” to learn more about. Through a worksheet & presentation you will share the following.

Main Components:

1. Describe examples of this person’s creativity in their field.
2. Describe the ordinary worlds that they transcended.
3. Describe how they influenced others: how did their field change as a result or what individuals were influenced by this person’s work (and how were they influenced).

FILM SCREENING

- 0 – 18 minutes