

CREATIVITY by Stephen Bongiovanni

Creativity is defined as a mental process that brings into being or existence ideas and/or action. In the broader sense creativity means to make or produce something new and implies an original end product or result. This article will present four vehicles of creativity labeled as mental, imaginative, emotional and intuitive. The mental creativity is linked to the manner of learning, thinking and reasoning and is located in m, n and r structures. Imaginative creativity is the visualization of ideas, thoughts, concepts and images and is found in loop and circle enclosures. Emotional creativity is defined here as the intensity of passions and libido and is viewed in handwriting by the heaviness of stroke or line quality. Intuitive creativity is insight and awareness that inexplicably flows within an individual and can be seen by the breaks in connections between letters.

Only three traits of mental creativity are discussed: cumulative thinking, constructive process and engineering awareness. Many handwriting analysts describe rounded or flat middle m, n-tops as cumulative thinking. Slowly accumulating information and arranging the information into logical step-by-step sequences describes this behavior. Flat m, n and r-tops parallel to the baseline with sharp angles to the letter's vertical strokes indicates a trait that can be called constructive. A constructive person is one that builds with repetitive small parts and with the goal of making something. The constructive thinker is different from the cumulative thinker in the increased desire in the application of learning process. An initial spike within the horizontal flat r-top that contains sharp angles and corners to the vertical strokes can be visualized by looking at the side of a straight back chair. The graphic structure can be referred to as engineering awareness. This behavior characteristic can be defined as someone who understands creative artistry and constructions. Needle-like pointed m and n tops usually describe comprehensive thinking. Comprehensive thinking implies someone who is keenly alert and can rapidly grasp and understand information. Combining comprehensive thinking with constructive capacity in the letter r yields an engineering interest.

Examples of mental creativity found in the cumulative and constructive thinking process are children or adults using building blocks or bricks to create a house, a software programmer creating new operational functions, and a grandmother weaving an afghan or sewing a patch quilt. Manual dexterity can be developed by constantly applying this form of mental activity to physical activity.

Imagination always alters facts and reality creating a new result. Imagination is a common process for creativity and is depicted by an enclosure formed when a line or lines border an area. The writing strokes of an enclosure regulate, expand and restrain an inner area to keep ideas, concepts and experiences bounded. Imagination can be summarized as the expansion and elaboration upon an idea. Amplification and exaggeration of thoughts are also indicated by imagination. People that possess imagination can enlarge concepts and visualize images creating new results. A person who possesses imagination can synthesize new mental pictures from elements experienced separately and visualize mental representations of a real perception transforming them into new concepts. The ability to describe and develop universal characters from facts and symbols is also a characteristic of imagination.

It has been said by a few that artists treat facts as stimuli for imagination whereas scientists utilize imagination to coordinate facts. Horizontally balanced enclosures add a sense of proportion and indicate the ability to coordinate facts and thoughts. A middle e-loop that is neither too wide nor too narrow appears to balance the traits of broad-mindedness and narrow-mindedness. There is a balance between liberal and fixed self-viewpoints. Middle o-loops that are neither too wide nor too narrow appear to balance the traits of open-

mindedness and close-mindedness. A balanced tolerance for the opinions of others or learned viewpoints is a positive characteristic for those wanting to be fair. People that have balanced line values can coordinate facts.

A sense of proportion in lower loop enclosures adds a perspective and understanding to material relationships. A sense of proportion creates symmetry in personal relationships and in physical surroundings. Harmonious tangible line values can be depicted with proportional lower loops. Foresight can be seen with lower balanced circles that can be found in the lower sections of the letters "f" and "q". Foresight is the ability to project into the future a sense of proportion regarding worldly matters. These people can be considered capable of perspective and resourcefulness.

People that have harmonious line values can also have proportional upper loops. People who possess a sense of proportion in upper enclosures can enhance and bring into existence concepts while visualizing their interrelating values. Abstract concepts can reflect intangible ethical standards. A sense of proportion can be described by balance and symmetry in philosophical matters. A person who coordinates thoughts, religious values and plans usually has balanced upper loops. Many consider a balanced "f" enclosure to represent organizational ability. An upper proportional loop flowing into a lower proportional circle transitioning at the base line is considered organizational ability for our purposes. It can be defined as the desire to coordinate thoughts and actions into orderly structural systems. These people desire a balanced outlook that integrates a proportional upper loop with a proportional lower circle.

A figure 8 structure for the letters "g" or "f" that passes through a baseline with an upper proportional circle completed with attached lower proportional loop is considered by many as the trait of fluidity. The figure 8 is defined here as the smooth transition from one word, thought and action to another. The figure 8 actually integrates a proportional lower loop with a proportional upper circle. Creative writers have a tendency of expressing abstract concepts and thoughts utilizing concrete descriptions. The ability to blend objects and concepts with descriptive words or to facilitate transitions is a wonderful trait for effective communication.

Discussion of emotional creativity is next. Heavy pen pressure creates emotions that can be modified as a result of new emotions or sensations and can be described as strong emotional intensity. The lasting effect of emotions is generated through the accumulation of changing emotions and the absorption of new experiences as well as reliving old impressions. For example, an ink blotter is typically used for an analogy. The ink represents the emotion or the sensation and the blotter represents the individual. The blotter soaks up the ink creating a new effect, changing what was already there. More ink modifies the blotter again creating a new emotion and reliving a previous sensation. Many artists create and communicate through their different emotions that stir new emotions in others. Emotional intensity can be depicted with heavy average stroke pressure. A person with strong emotional intensity possesses a strong libido. An individual with an abundance of available energy and vitality has a heavy stroke. This individual is usually proactive. Some associate a sensuous trait with broad line width. A sensuous person can be described as possessing a large capacity for indulging appetites. Dark writing contrast between ink and paper is usually associated with a person that has an acute awareness of perceptual differences. Someone writing with indigo black ink on white paper can be described as possessing strong sensory discrimination. These characteristics of heavy strokes or line quality create continuous emotional experiences that relieve both harsh and happy feelings.

Intuition is defined by just about every handwriting analyst as a break in connection between letters. A stroke lifts and returns in a different direction while maintaining the letter formation. Sudden insight without apparent evidence or verification can be defined as intuition.

Information, ideas and feelings just seem to inexplicably flow in intuitive individuals. Describing the process of intuitive creativity is difficult because it assumes access to the creator's internal subliminal thoughts. The individual appears to easily receive and exchange facts and thoughts with no apparent effort. The awareness of harmonious or inharmonious situations is evident in people with strong intuition. A person with intuition appears to be cognizant of fundamental truths. Intuition can guide the direction of deductive reasoning.

When the detached connections within letters are exaggerated and the letterform loses legibility, another trait is indicated. The letter that appears to be inappropriately broken up into indiscernible sections can be described as incoherent. Basically this can be described as the reaction formation to intuition that usually leads to disturbed harmony and awareness. Incoherent understanding and thinking is strongly implied.

Intuition colloquially has been defined as a sixth sense, ESP, or psychic insight. Intuition implies immediate cognition and comprehension that is obtained from non-physical forces that cannot be proven by standard scientific methods. The capacity for new inspirations and enlightenments is created through an innate interpretive quality. Many find the ability for new uncanny discoveries made by an intuitive individual unsettling but also extremely creative. Some find catching the spirit of a musical piece or solving a math problem without any apparent effort or awareness a remarkable quality. People with intuition can sense the meaning of an art form, guess the motivations of others, give the correct interpretations of events and seemingly know which path to take when lost. Some feel that being able to meditate requires an intuitive bent. Intuition can aid thinking and memory by providing direction and acting as a guide in spiritual beliefs. Effective leaders often have the ability to anticipate and predict situations as well as to sense potential problems and their correct solutions. People with intuition seem to accomplish desires and make good decisions or selections based upon their hunches.

Whether creating mentally, emotionally, imaginatively or intuitively, the final product is new and original.