Hello, my name is Mrs. Rutan and I want to help answer the question, “What is Creativity?” To start, I would like to read a poem that I wrote for my class syllabus…(pull up Weebly Page)

**(read off computer screen)**

So then, what is creativity?

 I think you can see it in this poem that I wrote, in the grammar, in the diction, and the creative structure, but I have also learned over the years that creativity takes time.

Contrary to popular belief creativity is **not** necessarily a skill you are born with. Everyone—anyone can be creative, and yet some of us have been told that creativity is an innate skill, like having blonde hair and being tall. I disagree. Everyone possesses creativity; everyone can learn to be creative; I have seen it in my own classroom.

Sadly, our world has squeezed out a lot of those opportunities to be creative, because too many kids grow up into teens that grow up into adults who believe they just weren’t born with the creativity “gene.”

This class, creative writing, can prove that wrong.

Before I share my own creative moments, I want to show you a real life example of a creative writer that has inspired me, and helped “touched my soul” and is always able to “go that place in my heart,” that made me want to try creative writing myself. I have read him in class for SSR, and that writer’s name is Tim O’Brien (Point out Glogster)

I believe creativity can be many things, but I think writing is one of the best places to show true creativity, especially with story-telling like Tim O’Brien.

I read Tim O’Brien’s book, *The Things They Carried* about five years ago and it changed my life—my writing life. I saw him write in new stylish ways where he blended fiction and nonfiction and about tough topics, like the Vietnam War, and he inspired me to be more creative with my own writing.

Tim O’Brien said this (point it out on my glogster) **“[My life is storytelling. I believe in stories, in their incredible power to keep people alive, to keep the living alive, and the dead.](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/t/timobrien516268.html%22%20%5Co%20%22view%20quote)”**

I think this a great quote, a creative quote and his writing helped inspired me to write this poem about my brother and how I can write to keep memories alive, even for those we have lost. The poem called, “The Book Fight” (show on website, read it\*\*\*).

This poem is creative because it was a personal experience that I could condense into a strong, but short poem. This poem is also creative because it helped me keep the memories alive of my brother even though he is now gone. This one of the first poems I have ever written and shared aloud and it was both a joyous and somber experience, but still, I was able to be creative because I never thought poetry was something I could write myself, but I did.

I have learned that creativity often involves our personal experiences (click on personal narratives page) Now some of us may believe that nothing ever exciting or interesting has happened in our lifetimes, but the truth is we all have stories to tell, and they all can be creative.

My second personal moment of creativity has been with personal narrative writing, which is, and probably always will be, my favorite writing type.

I have written several narratives, but my favorite is about my childhood neighborhood on good old Elizabeth Street called, “A Child’s Contrition.”

This is a creative moment because of my humor and diction. I learned that the words you choose and the tone of narration can make any story entertaining and dramatic. I love what I wrote about this big brick house that was down the street from me; I also loved how I was able to capture a memory of mine when I broke what was probably a pretty expensive wind chime in that house which was inhabited by a really mean old lady and I thought it was the greatest sin I ever committed as a child

One of my favorite lines was when I talked about the rumored elevator in this house and how I had, **“I heard this from a kid, who knew a kid, who knew a kid who had seen it, so naturally it was true.”** I read this to my classmates in my MSU class and they laughed and told me it was amazing, so I knew I had created a great line of writing.

Finally, I learned that creativity is those moments in life that you are proud of, that you worked hard for. Yes, writing is a huge part of “creativity” in my book, but I think creativity can include many other things, like pictures.

The final creative moment that I would like to share with you is the pictures that I took to help create my Weebly. I do not, by any means, consider myself a real photographer, but I worked very hard on this Weebly and wanted to make it personal, so I took my own pictures.

Some of my favorites include: my Home page (Pause, Explain), my teaching philosophy page (Pause, Explain), My great poetic works (Pause, Explain). I am still working on these photos, but I think creativity is something very personal and takes time and effort, and it is an ongoing process; thus, the photos I am creating are a perfect example of creativity.

So what is creativity? It is a skill we all possess and it is something we should never forget. Sure, it may take time, but in the end, those creative moments we accomplish are truly worth it. Thank you.