Directions: One of your first writing assignments is the “What is creativity” paper. Below are some student examples from past semesters. Read and highlight things you like, then offer an annotation/reaction. What do you like? What could you try yourself?

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Sample #1

Trying to answer what creativity is, is like trying to explain what water tastes like. Pretty difficult, eh? Well maybe it's a spot in your brain that gets programmed when you're born, and everybody's is the same, but as soon as you open up your tiny infant eyes you have the power to let your creativity grow. That spot in your brain might be what makes you, well... you! How you do things as a child, the scribbles only you can interpret; the imaginary friends no one else sees. Or even the make-believe lives you act out in your bedrooms. That is creativity, and that's where it all begins.   
    Okay, maybe that's not what creativity really is. By definition it's the ability to transcend traditional ideas, and to create meaningful ideas. Essentially, the ability to create, and do it like no one else. If you set a blank piece of paper down in front of some people and tell them to draw you a picture, they would be stumped. Being able to pick something floating around in their brain would be just too hard for some to accomplish. Although for others, the struggle would be picking one of the many things they can  pull up when given a clean slate. But if you are a creative person, you might not pick one thing like the close minded person, but more of a collage of thoughts that are skillfully drawn together to form a collage type of drawing, ultimately creating something no one else has ever seen before. Just like trying to compare Alice in Wonderland to the Encyclopedia of Worms, the difference is immense.   
    Now don't get me wrong, the person who drew up a simple cartoon dog over a forest of mushrooms and crazy trees may still have great ideas in life, but that might mean they just can't get outside the box. As a child, nothing you do is ordinary, and that's where creativity starts if you take the belief of your imaginary friend, and never let that part of your mind die out -- even when you know they aren't real -- it could grow forever, and never stop. Just instead of finding ways to be entertained as a youngster, you could be choosing the design for the logo of the business you decided to start up. It's a hard thing, trying to pin point what creativity actually is. Because for some people it's different than others. An  artist could paint an abstract piece and it could be creative to the art world, but the rest of society see's it as a big mess of paint. A music writer could come up with an amazing new analogy in a song, but no one but literary people would understand it. There is nothing wrong with not getting others creativity, because they opened up that piece in their brain with things they could do. Fashion designers, architects, graphic designers, photographers, even regular people, all have different forms of creativity. And if you open up or mind to do what could potentially become, you could create something solely out of your brain, that no one has ever seen before.

Word Count: 529

*Reactions:*

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Sample #2

Creativity is a word that can be used diversely. There is no right or wrong answer of what creativity really means because there are so many different perspectives of it. Personally, I believe creativity is expressing yourself through your works and bringing something new to the tables. Being unique by being yourself is a strong part of creativity. As long as you are true to yourself, then its not hard to be yourself. To me, creativity looks like something different. It could honestly be anything. Someone's fashion could be different than others and I would consider that creativity. Or if I saw a picture that has something unique to it, then I would consider that creativity as well. Anything and everything can be creative, it just takes a good eye to spot the difference I guess.  
  
There are many people who I believe have great, ideal creativity to their character. Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus, and Lady Gaga are only a few out of the hundreds that I believe has crazy good creativity.   
  
Although i am aware that many people dislike Miley Cyrus now because of her "Atrocious" ways, what people call "atrocious", i call creativity because its something different. It shouldn't matter whether how explicit or crude it may be because its different and not a lot of people have the guts to do something that ridiculous. I have respect for Miley. I believe that her new style expresses herself as a human-being. Its very creative in the sense that its so much more different as to what we are all used to seeing. The attitude that she carries makes her a bold individual and very unique which is why i would consider her a very creative type of person.  
  
Things that we watch on a regular basis could count for creativity as well. Like movies and tv shows. It takes a great amount of different ideas and talents to create something that seems so simple when it is actually complex. For example, "Alice In Wonderland" is actually a way more complex movie than you would think it is just because of the symbolic meaning behind every little aspect of it. Let alone, the ideas that created the movie came from someone who had a big imagination or maybe they just came from someone who smoked a bunch of dope and hallucinated a lot. Anyways, i would still consider this movie creative because its different in that aspect.  Is creativity something you can learn, or are you born with?  
  
I honestly believe that you can't just pop out of your mom as a Picasso or a Beethoven. I believe that in order to achieve your creative side, you have to take in your surroundings to help influence you creative expressions. I would say that the way you grow up in your environment has a great impact on your creativity. It takes time for your creativity to develop because you don't know exactly who you are when you are first born. You don't know a lot when you're born, so I would argue that you wouldn't know creativity as a baby because its something you grow into.  
  
Anyways, creativity is all around us, everyone has a different perspective on creativity which is perfectly fine since everyone is different in their own kind of way.

Word Count: 551

*Reactions:*