

Recognizing and Encouraging Creativity

Creativity could be described as the ability to solve problems that haven't been seen before. Creative people are flexible and original when completing assignments. This is obviously something you want to encourage in your students, even though it may cause you difficulties!

Creative students take chances. They are unconventional. They are the kids whose thoughts go down on paper faster than they can think about them ... they often write sentence fragments, even though they know what a sentence is. And they colour outside the lines ... because it's more fun!

Creative students may question things that other students take for granted. Encourage this, even though it costs you time.

Creative students think anything is possible. They won't accept limitations. They do best with 'open-ended' assignments that don't have single fixed answers. They like to think.

Creative students appreciate music and art. This sets them apart from their peers.

Creative students can make unique things from everyday objects. This is the usual way that creativity is recognized.

Creative students are often independent. They want to do things their own way ... which may be contrary to what the teacher wants. This may not please the teacher, who may prefer all her students to be submissive and quiet. But as a teacher, you should try to accommodate their nonconformity whenever you can ... at least where assignments and projects are concerned.

