



Creativity: Understanding Innovation in Problem Solving, Science, Invention, and the Arts

Robert W. Weisberg

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How cognitive psychology explains human creativity

Conventional wisdom holds that creativity is a mysterious quality present in a select few individuals. The rest of us, the common view goes, can only stand in awe of great creative achievements: we could never paint *Guernica* or devise the structure of the DNA molecule because we lack access to the rarified thoughts and inspirations that bless geniuses like Picasso or Watson and Crick. Presented with this view, today's cognitive psychologists largely differ finding instead that "ordinary" people employ the same creative thought processes as the greats. Though used and developed differently by different people, creativity can and should be studied as a positive psychological feature shared by all humans.

Creativity: Understanding Innovation in Problem Solving, Science, Invention, and the Arts presents the major psychological theories of creativity and illustrates important concepts with vibrant and detailed case studies that exemplify how to study creative acts with scientific rigor.

Creativity includes:

- * Two in-depth case studies--Watson and Crick's modeling of the DNA structure and Picasso's painting of *Guernica*-- serve as examples throughout the text
- * Methods used by psychologists to study the multiple facets of creativity
- * The "ordinary thinking" or cognitive view of creativity and its challengers
- * How problem-solving and experience relate to creative thinking
- * Genius and madness and the relationship between creativity and psychopathology
- * The possible role of the unconscious in creativity
- * Psychometrics--testing for creativity and how personality factors affect creativity
- * Confluence theories that use cognitive, personality, environmental, and other components to describe creativity

Clearly and engagingly written by noted creativity expert Robert Weisberg, *Creativity: Understanding Innovation in Problem Solving, Science, Invention, and the Arts* takes both students and lay readers on an in-depth journey through contemporary cognitive psychology, showing how the discipline understands one of the most fundamental and fascinating human abilities.

"This book will be a hit. It fills a large gap in the literature. It is a well-written, scholarly, balanced, and engaging book that will be enjoyed by students and faculty alike."

--David Goldstein, University of Toronto

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