

Creativity can be taught.

There are actually two ways of thinking about teaching creativity. First of all, we can teach generic skills of creative thinking, just in the way we can teach people to read, write, and do math. Some basic skills can free up the way people approach problems—skills of divergent thinking, for example, which encourage creativity through the use of analogies, metaphors, and visual thinking. If you're working in math class and the teaching is encouraging you to look for new approaches, to try new ways of thinking, then of course you can begin to judge the level of creativity and imaginativeness within the framework of mathematics as you would within the framework of music or dance or literature.

Teaching creatively

Teaching creatively means that teachers use their own creative skills to make ideas and content more interesting.

Teaching for creativity

Teaching *for* creativity, where the pedagogy is designed to encourage other people to think creatively

Teaching for Innovation

You encourage kids to experiment, to innovate, not giving them all the answers but giving them the tools they need to find out what the answers might be or to explore new avenues within particular domains, it's perfectly appropriate to say, "We're interested in new and original ways you can approach these issues."

Sir Ken Robinson is an internationally recognized leader in the development of creativity, innovation, and human resources; www.sirkenrobinson.com.

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