

My Reveal Road Map

Creativity is accessible to all human beings, even though many adults experience a sense of disconnection from their own ability to be creative. Reflecting on our practices of creativity and drawing our attention to our day-to-day opportunities for creativity is an important final step that contributes to our ability to get fired up after feeling burnt out as educators. Creativity is an expression of ourselves and our spirit; it allows us to be fully human. In solitude, with some friends or colleagues, or through the more structured framework of a book club or a professional development discussion, explore the following four provocations and question sets as a means of digging deeper into your own creativity.

1. Take some time to compare and contrast your joyful creativity as a child and as an adult. Record your responses in the following table.
 - a. As a child, what types of activities would tend to fill your soul?
 - b. What creative activities bring you joy now?

<i>Joyful Creativity in Childhood</i>	<i>Joyful Creativity in Adulthood</i>
<i>For example, making clothes for my dolls.</i>	<i>For example, putting together color-coordinated outfits for teaching and posting them to Pinterest.</i>

What do you notice is similar about your joyful creativity as a child compared to your adult approach? What do you notice is different when it comes to your creative expression as a child versus as an adult?

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2. What are some of the creative roadblocks (see page 139) that hold you back from expressing yourself creatively? In the following figure, circle the ones that tend to apply to you. How, specifically, do these roadblocks manifest themselves in your life?

<i>Creativity Roadblock</i>	<i>Result</i>
Time Confetti	
Procrastination	
Comparison	
Psychologically Unsafe Environment	
Playing Small	
Perceived Lack of Resources	

How might you counteract the roadblocks you experience through the activities highlighted in chapter 5 (page 145)? Choose one of the activities and describe how this might help you to counteract the roadblocks and open the door to creativity in your life. How might you apply this approach to your own practice as an educator, for the benefit of your students?

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3. How might you establish a new creative practice or reestablish an existing one that means something to you? What action step could you take today toward that goal? Record your response in the following chart.

<i>Creative Practice</i>	<i>Action Step</i>
<i>I'd like to start playing with watercolor paints again.</i>	<i>This weekend, I am going to purchase all the supplies I need for watercolor.</i>

4. Set a creative goal for yourself this week, this month, and this year. How do you see yourself being creative in the short term, medium term, and long term?

<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Creative Goal</i>
Short Term	This week, I will . . .
Medium Term	This month, I will . . .
Long Term	This year, I will . . .