

Thoughts from DrCre8's Creativity Journal

Ever wondered how the great inventors and thinkers of our time accomplish all that they do?

Research has shown that those who achieve a great deal in life look at their problems in ways that may differ from how the rest of us approach our problems.

1. **Thinkers look at problems from all angles.** To solve a problem creatively, you must abandon the first approach that comes to mind, which usually stems from past experience, and reconceptualize the problem. Thinkers do not merely solve existing problems they identify new ones. What problems do you face now? What new angle can you use to solve them?
2. **Thinkers make their thoughts visible.** The explosion of creativity in the Renaissance was intimately tied to the development of graphic illustration during that period, notably scientific diagrams of Leonardo 'da Vince and Galileo. Einstein thought in terms of forms, rather than along mathematical or verbal lines. In fact, he believed that words and numbers did not play a significant role in his thinking process. How can you make your thought visible? How can it take on new form?
3. **Thinkers produce.** Thomas Edison held 1093 patents, still the record. He guaranteed a high level of productivity by giving himself idea quotas: one minor invention every 10 days and a major invention every six months! Bach wrote a cantata every week. Mozart produced more than 600 pieces of music in his short life. What goal do you want to accomplish that requires some goal setting? Mark your calendar now to write that new book or create that great invention.
4. **Thinkers make novel combinations.** Like playful children with building blocks, thinkers constantly combine and recombine ideas, images and thoughts. How fun it would be to play with an area in your life that you have perhaps taken too seriously. I'm playing at becoming an artist because when I grow up, I will be an artist!
5. **Thinkers prepare themselves for chance.** Whenever we attempt to do something and fail, we end up doing something else. That's the first principle of the creative accident. We may wonder why we failed to do what we intended, which is a reasonable question. But the creative accident leads to the question: What have we done? Answering that question in a novel, unexpected way is the essential creative act. It is not luck, but creative insight of the highest order. Do you view your failures as stepping-stones to the creative act? Rethink your failures into successes.

