

Share Papers Number 4 and 5: Individualist and Contextualist Approaches to Creativity

Share Paper #4:

In our quest to understand artistic creativity, we have been looking at the subject in two ways: from an “individualist” perspective (i.e., what qualities, habits, and characteristics the creative person must possess) and from a “contextualist” perspective (i.e., what must be present in the larger context in which art is made for someone to be viewed as a creative success).

Usually, our thinking about creativity limits us to the individualist perspective; Sawyer’s model goes beyond the “person” (who creates the work) to add the “field” (in our case, “the art world”: artists, curators, art historians, and other visual arts experts—who job is to assess the work to see if it is indeed “novel” and “appropriate”) and the “domain” (what some people call the “canon”—the place that work judged “novel” and “appropriate” winds up).

In our final two share papers, I want you to assess what you find most useful in Sawyer’s individualist and contextualist approaches for your own creativity.

Share Paper #4:

Due 11/19/08

In a brief paper of 2-3 pages, identify three areas of INDIVIDUALIST research in Sawyer’s text (chaps 3-6) that most resonated with you in regard to your personal creativity. Explain why each of them felt particularly meaningful to you, and what they reveal to you about your own creativity.

Share Paper #5: Due 12/1/08

In a brief paper of 2-3 pages, identify three areas of CONTEXTUALIST research in Sawyer’s text (chaps 7-9) that most resonated with you in regard to your personal creativity. Explain why each of them felt particularly meaningful to you, and what they reveal to you about your own creativity.

I will evaluate each paper on the basis of the engagement you demonstrate with the question, the degree to which you apply concepts, readings, and experiences from class, the thought and care demonstrated in each paper, and the thoughtfulness and quality of preparation (including such things as editing out silly mistakes!).