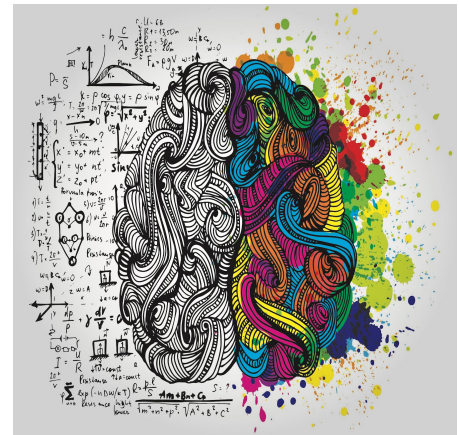


## Endangered species: creativity

By: Sreya Pandyaram

Monet's otherworldly portals, Shakespeare's craft of words, and Beethoven's emotional compositions, these art forms not only reveal the creative genius of their formation but inspire and withdraw creativity from a whole world. Creativity is the spur of an image inspired by the world around us and the connections we establish to other existing souls. Human beings can innovate, transform, and establish ideas that lead to change and make the world more interesting as well as introduce realms of possibility and inspiration. However as our days become more and more equipped with facts, creativity is ridiculed and at times considered too much or too less. There tends to be more emphasis on get to the point rather than explain the topic differently, and in your own way. It is almost as if we are facing a scarcity in the ability to venture out of the box, and have developed into a society that is demanded to be boring, and demanded to grade creativity preventing schools and workplaces to nurture creativity positively due to expectation and testing properly.

Today we have a pattern of what we have to do and a strict schedule which rarely deteriorates, that is pay attention and do your work, not your way, but the way that is shown. This stifles creativity and not only is aimed toward students but as well as adults in the workplace. So is creativity necessary? Moreover, are we the reason that creativity is endangered?



We do not need to be creative in a world that chooses to derive individuals the ability to be creative by placing standards. We already manufacture expectations and tend to carve out the specific path that a person should embark on, and if they do, they are rewarded and gifted, but if they waver in the thinking or doing, there is something wrong with them, and they have failed the experiment. This is evident in schools and workplaces frequently, the educator and boss exhibit a definite formula and the required steps, if a person redirects those steps or tends to follow a different method they are ridiculed and held as a nuisance for not listening to the expectation. This leads to the cut and dry thinking epidemic we face today. There is no source of effort or childlike wonder into daily life because of the already set rules and standards that demand to be followed. This ultimately reduces creativity and creates a generation of individuals thinking creativity is not necessary. Another reason creativity is scarce has to do with [technology](#), we lack originality and lack hands-on experience with the world. There are a numerous amount of people, who, daily stare at their devices and refuse to see the world around them. The inability to experience one's surroundings and setting deny the person wonder and individuality. We forget that we once crafted weapons and tools out of stones and tree branches, we forget that we once were excited by possibility and change of the unknown, we forget who we are and why we are different, ultimately we forget to be inspired.

However, It is not only technology and cut and dry thinking that drain the life source of creativity, but society's constant need to evaluate and judge every aspect of wonder. This process is highly absurd and ludicrous; creativity is a result of perspective, what an individual chooses to do and express in their art is from what they have learned, what they feel, and what they want. Art class and almost every critique grades on technique and stroke, but it is impossible to

measure technique and stroke when it is the expression of emotion, we should not grade nor evaluate emotion because, during the portrayal of feeling like anger, love, and sadness, boundaries and rules are laughable, emotion is expression and energy it can't be graded as it is different for everyone. Our need to continually memorize form and image is so we can replicate that into our own work, which results in us in constantly comparing and always losing in that comparison leading to denial and in our minds failure. The greatness of Monet, Shakespeare, and Beethoven was that they made their own methods and portrayals. That is why our present-day society will never be as great, we refuse to create our own rules, and if we do, the expectation is disregarded, and now your creativity is a 1. For example, [TAG classes](#) are opportunities in favor of those who pass tests or get recommended. However, this, again, is exploitation of creativity, creativity should not be simplified to only tests and a student should not be deemed creative by adults who evaluate regarding on a rubric. How is it fair to tell a person that the way they see things and the objects around them is not enough. Students that pass these tests are usually good test takers and should be placed in higher classes, but there should not be a test regarding creativity. Creativity is a process that requires us to morph the surroundings around us into experience and fuel that to express ourselves, not all of us when we were young thought about castles and rocket ships, but that does not mean there is no creativity within our brains. Maybe for some people, creativity appears when they have matured, and maybe others are creative but creative in the way they answer to problems and the way they choose to express themselves. Also, many individuals are creative but horrible test takers or lack [social skills](#), that does not mean we are ineligible or less able, but that is what the tests say so it must be true. This not only displays another way of society and its need to continually evaluate, but also creates insecurity between an individual,

thinking that they are not good enough or creative enough because they did not get into TAG, which creates a lifetime of doubt and further endangers creativity. Higher thinking, fast pace work, and talent to grasp curriculum or lesson fast portrays intelligence and an overall high functioning person, not creativity.

There also seems to be the argument that only some of us are creative and that the majority of the population is not deemed creative therefore education should be a primary focus and instructions are mandatory. We forget that our whole existence and everyday occurrences are art, the way you make your bed, manage time, and speak. We are all creative , but even that is starting to disappear because of the need to constantly grade and the lack of practice for an individual to think on their own. We need answers and are afraid to look outside of the box. The constant evaluation and judgement also leads to parents considering their children are not creative and wanting to substitute that with endless schedules and forced hobbies. This results in even more less imagination and thinking as we need to complete school work and focus on grades and responsibilities instead of changing perspective and expanding the way we solve.

We are a nation that donates immense amounts of respect to lawyers, doctors, and engineers, but pity the aspiring writers, and artists that would rather venture into depth and the unknown. We disrespect because we believe being creative is not as necessary, and fail to understand that creativity is a human trait and without, the world would cease to be real. We forget that we were all once curious in our youth and were ready to live passionately, inspiringly, and exceedingly, but somehow apparently the world brought us down. Half of that is no one else's fault but our own for letting ourselves lose touch with the world and to let others decide that if we are good enough. But the other half is the fault of unnecessary rules and tests that limit

potential. We need to start establishing more space to let an individual express themselves without the fear of someone watching, and accept that all art is creative and deserving of praise, and not be shaded with a cloud of necessary approval.

Jennifer Gonnerman is a frequent writer for the New Yorker and frequently writes pieces on the politics of the legal system . Gonnerman displays facts and the harsh reality that victims of the system experience, while remaining unbiased, she also portrays an alternative perspective on the system and brings out the questions that many fail to consider or voice. In her article, [Do Jails Kill People?](#) Gonnerman writes about the tragedies that have occurred in the system and the unethical treatment that continues in present-day society affecting the lives of inmates and the lives of the families. Gonnerman uses facts and provides evidence while making her claim evident in her tone. Similarly, in my article, I made use of multiple examples in present-day society that has had an adverse effect on the minds of individuals regarding their ability to create. Cases like tag testing and technology which have resulted in the loss of direct

engagement and growth. In another article by Gonnerman, [After Tuesday's Attack, Fear in Little Pakistan](#) Gonnerman discusses in her writing, present-day society and uses a disappointed yet formal tone to talk about the incident a discriminatory act that had taken place in the neighborhood of Brooklyn. In contrast to Gonnerman, the tone of my editorial portrays disappointment of society but remains unbiased regarding the claim. In relation to Gonnerman, there is a similar share of wanting the standards to change and wanting to live in a world where we are not evaluated continuously, controlled, and torn.