

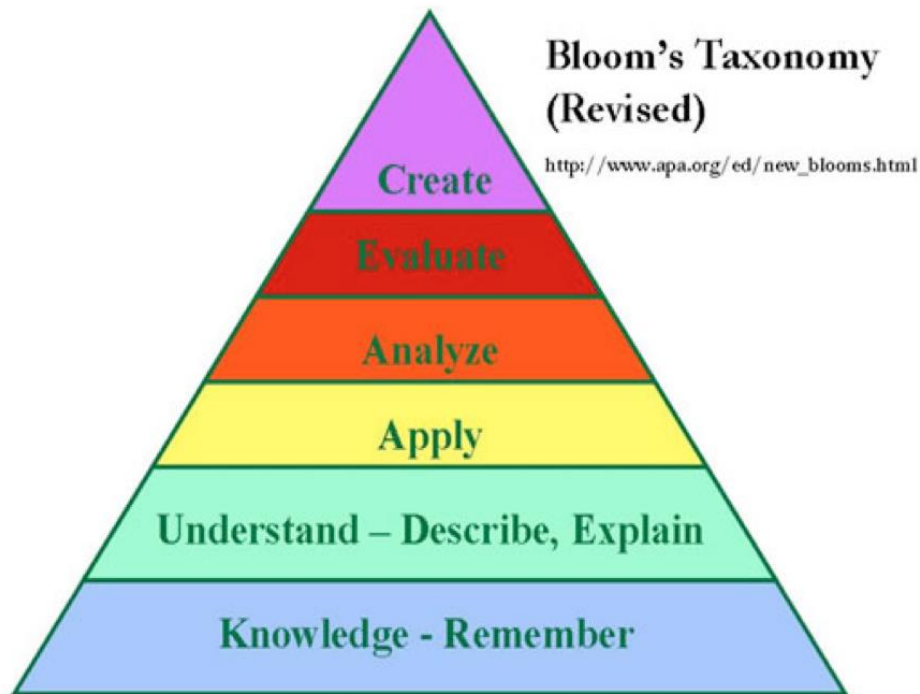
CREATIVITY:

Where failure IS an option, and perhaps a requirement."

APOLLO 13

- Square Peg in a Round Hole Scene

We lead the
world:



Based on an APA adaptation of Anderson, L.W. & Krathwohl, D.R. (Eds.) (2001)

Beethoven:

- Beethoven rescored the opening to his 5th symphony 11 times with scratch outs so deep

that he tore the manuscript
paper!

Hamilton:

Lin-Manuel Miranda ([/lɪn mənˈwɛl məˈrændə/](#); born January 16, 1980)^[1] is an American composer, lyricist, singer, rapper, actor, producer, and playwright, widely known for creating and starring in the [Broadway](#) musicals *In the Heights* and *Hamilton*. His awards include a [Pulitzer Prize](#), three [Tony Awards](#), three [Grammy Awards](#), an [Emmy Award](#), a [MacArthur Fellowship](#), and a [Kennedy Center Honor](#) in 2018.

Write As If You're

Running out Of Time:

You can always go back and fix it later!

■ But what makes Miranda so unusual among revered artists is that he refuses to propagate the lie that true genius comes easily. Take this tweet from 2009 that he recently resurfaced on Twitter:

■ “Spent the entire day working on one couplet about George Washington,”

reads the 2009 tweet. “Hamilton’s slow-going, my friends, but I promise you it will be worth it. It’s hard converting whole swaths of history into a hot 16 bars.”

Give Yourself a Pep Talk:

■ If spending a full day writing two lines of verse sounds insane, consider this: “After writing

‘Alexander Hamilton,’ the first song in the play, it took me a full year to write the second song, ‘My Shot,’” Miranda told an awestruck audience at Qualtrics. For context, he worked on his first play, *The Heights*, for 10 years before it opened.

■ These details only scratch the surface of Miranda (and all playwrights’) grueling, time-

intensive, error-ridden artistic
process.

Dare to Put It on the Line!

■ And that's the sentiment behind his message on Twitter last week: If you don't rise up and put in the work, no one will.

■ Art isn't easy. If it were, artists probably wouldn't do it. The process and the pain, as any real creative

knows, is at least half the pleasure.

Give Your Students the Chance to Be Creative!

■ “It took me seven years to write this show. This is no overnight success — took me a year to write the second song in the show ‘my shot.’ I’m in awe of people who can just write well and quickly.”

■ “And it took me a long time to be

able to write about that guy, but that was sort of what inspired me about his story.”

A Philosophy:

- We should be able to create time and circumstances that allow out students to “fail safely and devise creative solutions to rise up from their problem.”
- This is a daring proposition and the first thing needed is how to incorporate this concept into an

already over full schedule of performances and expectations.

Possibilities:

- Sight read a piece on a concert, then let students explain creative ways to improve the experience to the audience.

Replay the selection.

- Give an informance (include sight reading and allow student conductors.)

- Let your drum majors conduct the Star-Spangled Banner.

- Teach everyone and every instrument to improvise to the point where within certain guidelines, they can improvise a duet with each other.

- Have your students listen to and analyze their own performance with creative comments on improvement (many of you do that already.)

- Have students listen to a professional performance and give

thoughts as to what made it so creative.

A Different Viewpoint:

- When it comes to creating a great work of art, practice makes perfect, writes Matthew Syed.
- A design college in the United States has just started a new exhibition about creativity, which will run till January. It is called "**Permission to Fail**". The

curator asked a group of 50 prestigious designers and illustrators to send in their mess-ups, rough drafts and preliminary sketches so that they could be put on display.

Creativity is something we can all improve at... it is about daring to learn from our mistakes James

Dyson

■ A quick story. In their book *Art and Fear*, David Bayles and Ted Orland tell of a ceramics teacher who announced on the opening day of class that he was dividing the students into two groups. Half were told that they would be graded on quantity. The other half would be graded on quality. They just had to

bring along their one, pristine,
perfectly designed pot.

The Rest of the Story:

■ The results were emphatic - the works of highest quality, the most beautiful and creative designs, were all produced by the group graded for quantity. As Bayles and Orland put it: "It seems that while the 'quantity' group was busily churning out piles of

work - and learning from their mistakes - the 'quality' group had sat theorizing about perfection, and in the end had little more to show for their efforts than grandiose theories and a pile of dead clay."

Dyson and the Vacuum:

- The British inventor James Dyson didn't create the dual cyclone vacuum cleaner in a flash of inspiration. The product, now used by millions, didn't emerge fully

formed in his mind. Instead, he did what the group graded for quantity did. He tried and failed, triggering new insights, before trying and failing again - and slowly the design improved.

More Dyson:

■ In fact, Dyson worked his way through 5,126 failed prototypes before coming up with a design that ultimately transformed household cleaning. As he put it: "People think of creativity as a mystical process. This model conceives of innovation as something that happens to geniuses. But this could not be more wrong. Creativity is

something we can all improve at, by realizing that it has specific characteristics.

Above all, it is about daring to learn from our mistakes".

Tennessee Williams:

- He proved to be a prolific writer and one of his plays earned him \$100 from the Group Theater writing contest. More importantly, it landed him an agent, Audrey Wood, who

would become his friend and adviser.

■ In 1940 Williams' play, *Battle of Angels*, debuted in Boston. It **quickly flopped**, but the hardworking Williams revised it and brought it back as *Orpheus Descending*, which later was made into the movie, *The Fugitive Kind*, starring **Marlon Brando** and Anna Magnani.

Vince Lombardi:

■ It's not whether you get knocked down, its whether you get back up.

And I would add it is also what you do differently. Be creative and persistent!

In a letter to Edison in spring 1884, Francis Upton noted that the lamp factory had conducted 2,774 experiments (presumably since it had started operations in October 1881).

Thomas Edison:

Suggestions and Thoughts:

- Improvisation for all
- Informances

- Sight-read at a concert, or performance.
- Drum Majors conduct SSB
- Teach parents to play an instrument, paint or do origami, or interpret a sonnet.

Thoughts and Suggestions?

- We should be able to create time and circumstances that allow out students to “fail safely and

devise creative solutions to rise up from their problem.”

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