

## SYSEN 550: Homework #1

**General Instructions:** In composing your responses to all tasks, please use full sentences and pay careful attention to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and clarity of expression. Both the *content* of your work and its *presentation* are important and will be evaluated as follows: 80% on *quality of content*; 20% on *quality of communication*.

In this assignment, you will explore and synthesize **different views of creativity** – including your own view before this course began, the views of other people you know, and Kirton’s view. We will use the following questions as the basis of our exploration:

1. Who is creative? How many people are creative?
2. How would you describe creative people? What are they like?
3. How many things that people do (and what kinds of things) might be called creative?
4. How would you describe a creative idea, solution, or product?
5. What are the chances of success for a creative idea?
6. What is the source of creativity: individuals, groups, and/or organizations?
7. Do you believe you are creative? When and how?

### Step 1: Creativity Interviews

Interview *three people* (at least 18 years old) about their views on creativity using the list of questions above. Please provide each person’s age (approximate is OK), gender, and occupation or field of study, but do **not** provide the person’s name or contact information. Record their answers to the given questions, encouraging **extended discussion** about each one (i.e., more than one or two words). Feel free to explore their views through questions of your own as the interviews proceed.

**Report your findings:** Write up and discuss your findings in detail, including ...

- a. Demographic data (age, gender, occupation/field of study)
- b. A summary of each person’s answers to the given questions (and any other questions you add)
- c. Your reactions to the interviewees’ responses (e.g., Do you agree with them? Did they surprise you in any way?)
- d. Some final commentary on this task: What did you discover overall? How is this information useful? What else would you like to explore about people’s views on creativity?

### Step 2: Your View of Creativity – Before and After

Answer the list of questions yourself – *first*, according to your understanding of creativity when you entered this course, and *second*, as you understand creativity now through the lens of Adaption-Innovation theory (i.e., what is Kirton’s view of creativity). In your response, be sure to address both similarities *and* differences between your view of creativity before the course and Kirton’s view.

### Step 3: Closing Synthesis

To close the assignment, synthesize what you have learned about creativity from this process of exploration. Then comment briefly on *why* it is important to study creativity and problem solving within a technical degree program.