

## Interactive Online Assignment

### Background:

Creativity is especially important in the field of science, but how can we teach that, and how can students find it to be important? This assignment is to present you with a couple of resources about creativity (one an article from Student Science (a part of Science News) and the other a video. Both of these will be posted on our Google Classroom site, and you **must** go through Google Classroom to finish the assignment.

In case you want to share the article and video, or look at them outside of Google Classroom, the links are here.

Reading: <https://student.societyforscience.org/article/how-creativity-powers-science>

Video 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbIZU8cQWXc>

There's another brief video you may want to watch about the person who's the narrator in the first video (his name is Neil deGrasse Tyson and he hosts StarTalk podcasts): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOkFfvTGuGk>

### Objectives:

1) **Read the article and watch the video about creativity in science. Post a thoughtful response by 11:00 PM on Friday, March 1.** Questions to think about (but should not just be answered directly) are things such as: How did you view creativity in science – as a gift, or a learned talent? What factors did you think were necessary for a person to be creative in science?

After reading the article, you should be able to answer or comment on things such as: What factor do you think helps creativity the most in a science classroom (and why?!) or creativity in ANY classroom? [Note that while the article talked in general about things like an unfocused mind, you are welcome to express things from your own personal experience.]

After watching the video, questions that may arise include things like: What will it take to start thinking big about the future again? {Do you think that can happen? Why?!?!} Why do you think society focuses so much on the day to day and not the longer term?

2) **Contribute to a discussion of the reading assignment by reacting to the responses posted by your colleagues (classmates).** You must answer questions asked of you by your colleagues and make **at least three additional contributions** to the discussion to receive minimum credit for this assignment. Avoid the use of simple, unelaborated statements when you respond because such statements do not encourage conversation. **Your goal is to become deeply engaged in a conversation generated by your initial post, and to get involved in deep conversations generated by the initial posts of a couple of your colleagues.** Attempt to engage in conversations with other colleagues in future online assignments, or just on your own when using Google Classroom. **Your contributions must be spread out over time and must be completed by the final assignment due date, 11:00 PM on Thursday, March 14.**

**Scoring, disclaimer and final thoughts:**

**When we're done:** Turn this sheet into Mr. Forrest on March 15. He'll give you your grade and write comments about your performance on the back. When it is returned to you, place it in your lab folder. Note that there is the possibility of extra credit based on the depth and times of your comments. This assignment will have its own 10 point category in your SBGBook.

**Disclaimer:** While the video is apolitical in some ways, it makes a push for funding of NASA. It's always important to understand where people are coming from, and the narrator is director of the Hayden Planetarium in NYC. I've seen him speak in person more than once. While he is always pro-science, he's normally refreshingly non-partisan in terms of politics – even when people try to draw him into that realm.

**Using threads in Google Classroom:** It can be hard to follow several conversations, so after I put the links on Google Classroom, be clear to whom you are responding. For everyone to see it, you should reply to all (in our AP Physics 1 section) not just the person who posted the initial comment.

To help keep track of things, list the date you make your initial post and any responses here. I'll cross check on Google Classroom.

Initial post: \_\_\_\_\_

Response 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Response 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Response 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of any additional comments/responses: \_\_\_\_\_

Your score: \_\_\_\_\_

*Instructor comments:*

**An additional reading (for those interested)**

Reading 2: <http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/11/the-creative-scientist/382633/>

And some info on Neil deGrasse Tyson (ref. <https://www.famousscientists.org/neil-degrasse-tyson/> ) since I'm such a fan ☺

One of today's popularizers of science, Neil deGrasse Tyson is a science communicator and known American astrophysicist. Currently, he is the Hayden Planetarium's Frederick P. Rose director at the Rose Center for Earth and Space. He is also one of the research associates of the American Museum of Natural History's department of astrophysics. Since he is a popularizer of science, he has appeared in television shows such as NOVA ScienceNow which was aired on PBS from 2006-2011 and on Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey in 2014. He is involved in fields such as physical cosmology, astrophysics, and science communication. And, he's getting ready to film a new Cosmos series!

