Using Creative Thinking Techniques for Deeper Rapport and Effective Learning

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Creative Studies Minor / EPSY 433 Lateral Thinking Online / EPSY 489 Design Thinking / EPSY 649 Intro to Survey Research

Activity 1

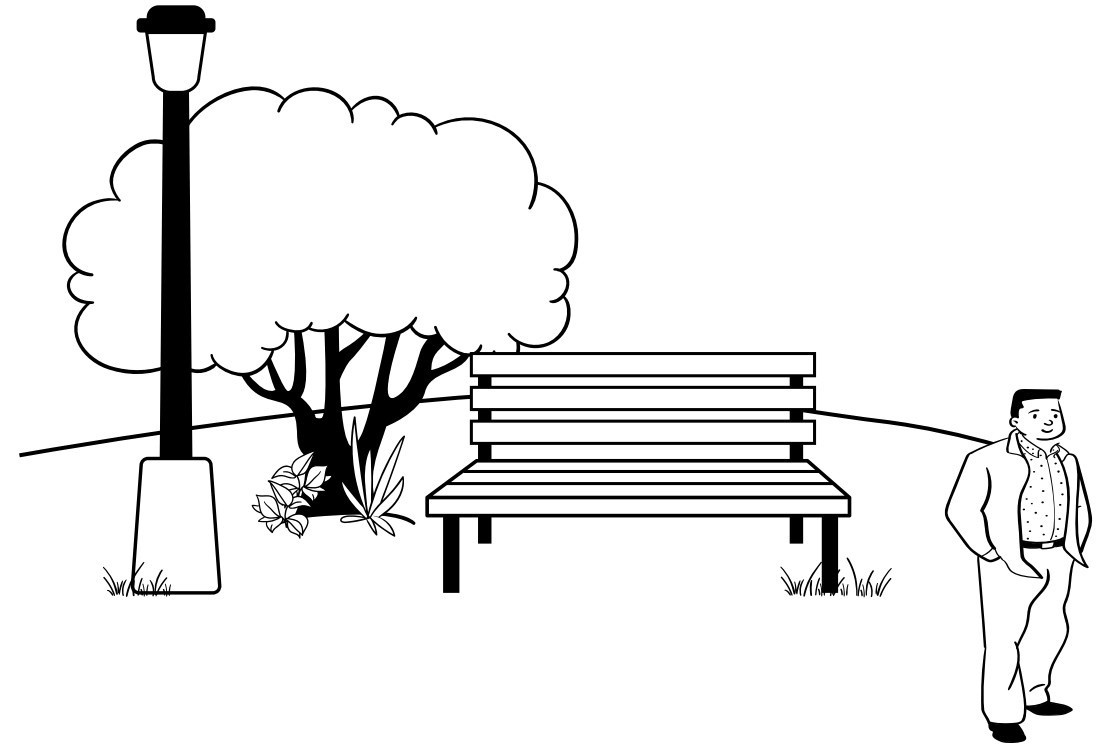What question would you ask students to write down... and then ask each other?

What makes that question effective?

Why did you choose to come to Texas A&M?

What is something unique or surprising about where you come from?

What's a small thing that always makes your day better?

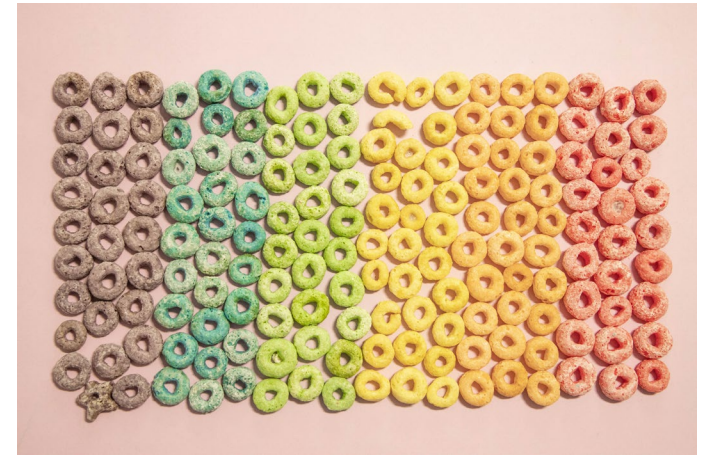What's one goal you have for your first year in college?

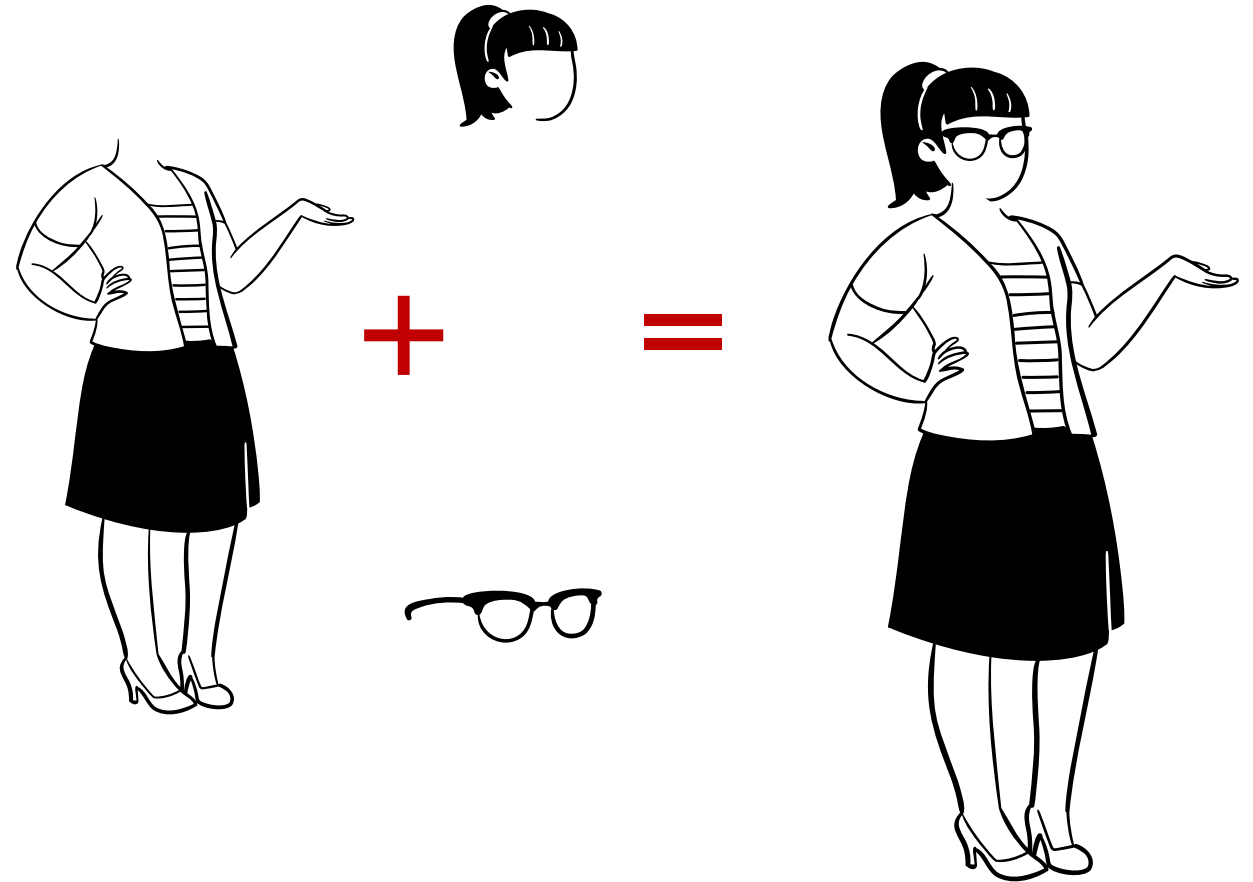# Activity 2

We will work in pairs for this assignment

1) Draw a portrait of the person next to you without looking at the paper and without lifting your pen from the paper

2) You have 2 minutes.

Creating an atmosphere for collaboration: alignment

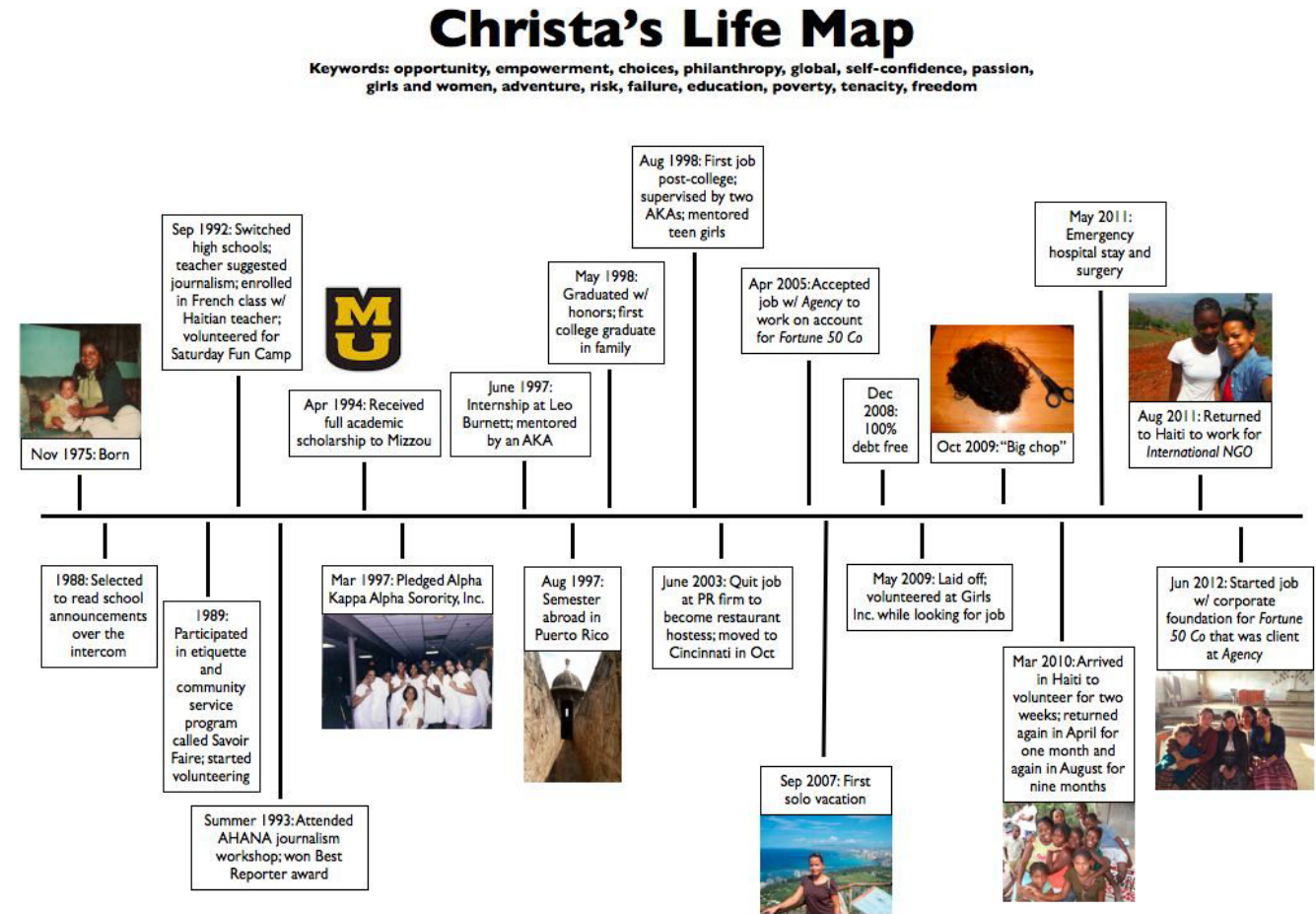**1** What are some learning objectives in our class?

2 What do you think students are looking for?

Map a meaningful context: From the past into..... ⌐○○ ... the future

Life Map / Mind Map

1) Key Concepts vs key experiences

2) Interpretation of experiences (in the classroom... or as part of the assignment)

3) Use Colors, lines and diagrams

4) **The possibility of including a FUTURE MAP**

5) Include clear guidelines (achievements, photos, descriptions...)

Christa's Life Map

Keywords: opportunity, empowerment, choices, philanthropy, global, self-confidence, passion, girls and women, adventure, risk, failure, education, poverty, tenacity, freedom

Nov 1975: Born

Sep 1992: Switched high schools; teacher suggested journalism; enrolled in French class w/ Haitian teacher; volunteered for Saturday Fun Camp

Apr 1994: Received full academic scholarship to Mizzou

June 1997: Internship at Leo Burnett; mentored by an AKA

May 1998: Graduated w/ honors; first college graduate in family

Aug 1998: First job post-college; supervised by two AKAs; mentored teen girls

Apr 2005: Accepted job w/ Agency to work on account for Fortune 50 Co

Dec 2008: 100% debt free

Oct 2009: "Big chop"

May 2011: Emergency hospital stay and surgery

Aug 2011: Returned to Haiti to work for International NGO

1988: Selected to read school announcements over the intercom

1989: Participated in etiquette and community service program called Savoir Faire; started volunteering

Summer 1993: Attended AHANA journalism workshop; won Best Reporter award

Mar 1997: Pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Aug 1997: Semester abroad in Puerto Rico

June 2003: Quit job at PR firm to become restaurant hostess; moved to Cincinnati in Oct

Sep 2007: First solo vacation

May 2009: Laid off; volunteered at Girls Inc. while looking for job

Mar 2010: Arrived in Haiti to volunteer for two weeks; returned again in April for one month and again in August for nine months

Jun 2012: Started job w/ corporate foundation for Fortune 50 Co that was client at Agency

7 ways of fostering creative thinking in the classroom

Tool 1:

The **What**: we are learning something: STUDY SKILLS

The **So What** of the learning: Since I have learned this what insights do I get?

The **Now What** of the learning: I know something useful, I know why it is useful, but I need to find an application: a behavior to change / and improvement to make.

This is a debrief framework for any experience: a visit to the library, career center…

7 ways of fostering creative thinking in the classroom

Tool 2:

Always use an ice breaker to create a more fun, social,
and safe environment

Peer Mentors can help you very much if you let them.
Debrief with them at the end of the session and give
feedback. How did it go? What would you do
differently?

7 ways of fostering creative thinking in the classroom

Tool 3:

Bring humor to the classroom

If you cannot tell jokes... maybe other people can

You can use fun resources to help people laugh a bit

7 ways of fostering creative thinking in the classroom

Tool 4:

Invite people to share during your class: Writing Center, Library,
Career Center, Success Center...

Get students to take notes

Get students to ask questions

Provide a summary at the end of the session

7 ways of fostering creative thinking in the classroom

Tool 5:

Get people to pair share / group share and report on activities: they
do most of the talking – you do less talking

Ask people to come up with ideas to solve something… for instance
overcoming procrastination

They need to come up with three different ideas and select the best
and think about the value of that idea… what makes that ideas more
effective

Share with other, document and share

Tool 6: Effects Wheel ... an exploration for leverage points

Effects Wheel … an exploration for leverage points

- Worse grades

-

+ I learn more

+ I get better grades

+

I overcome procrastination

+

-

-

+

Less motivated
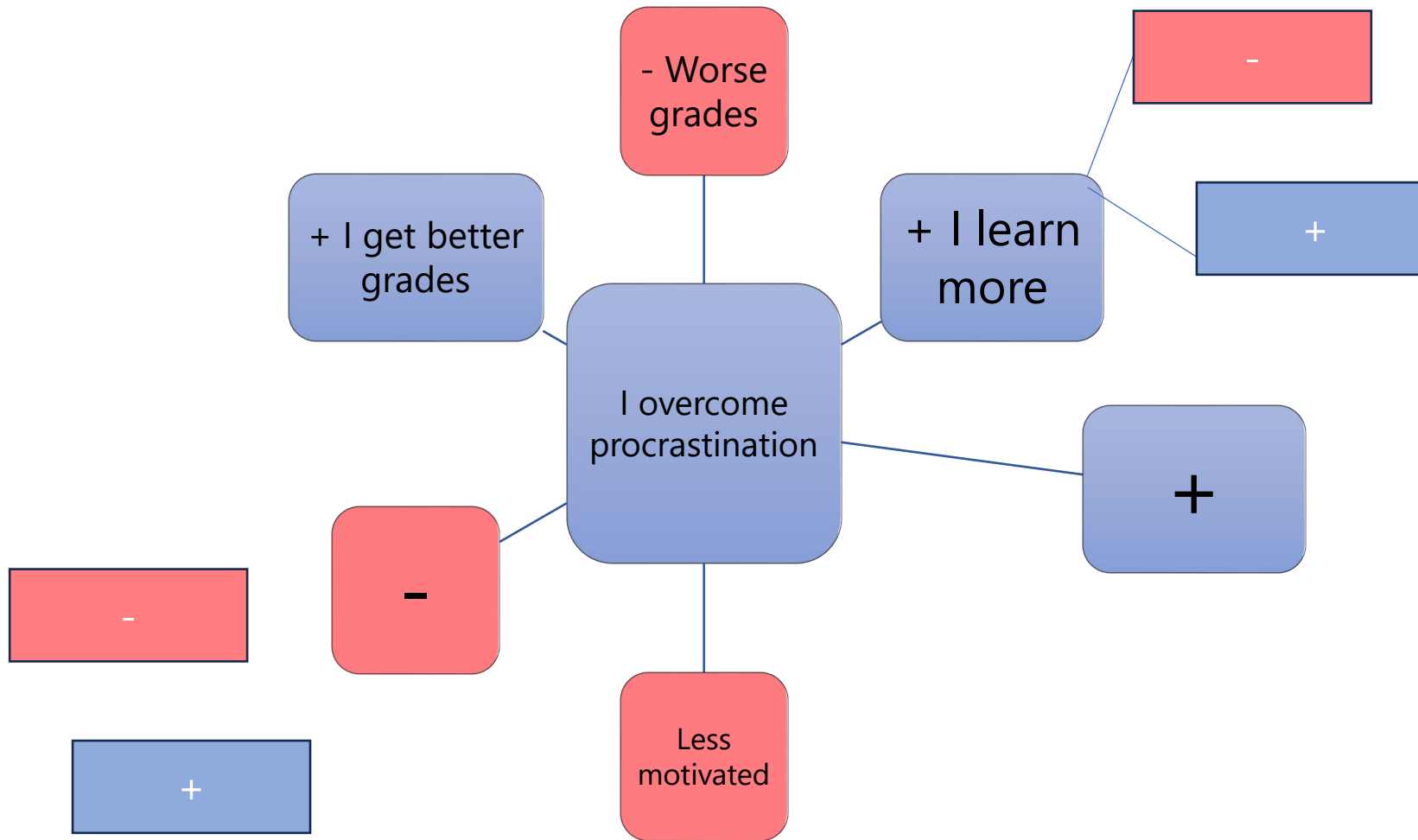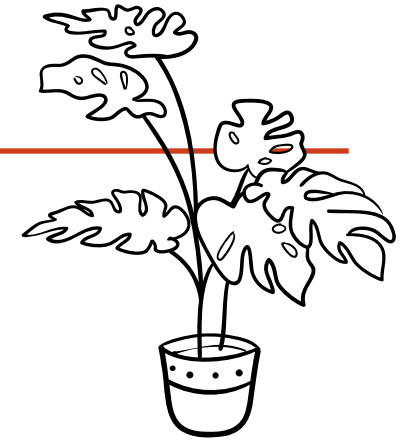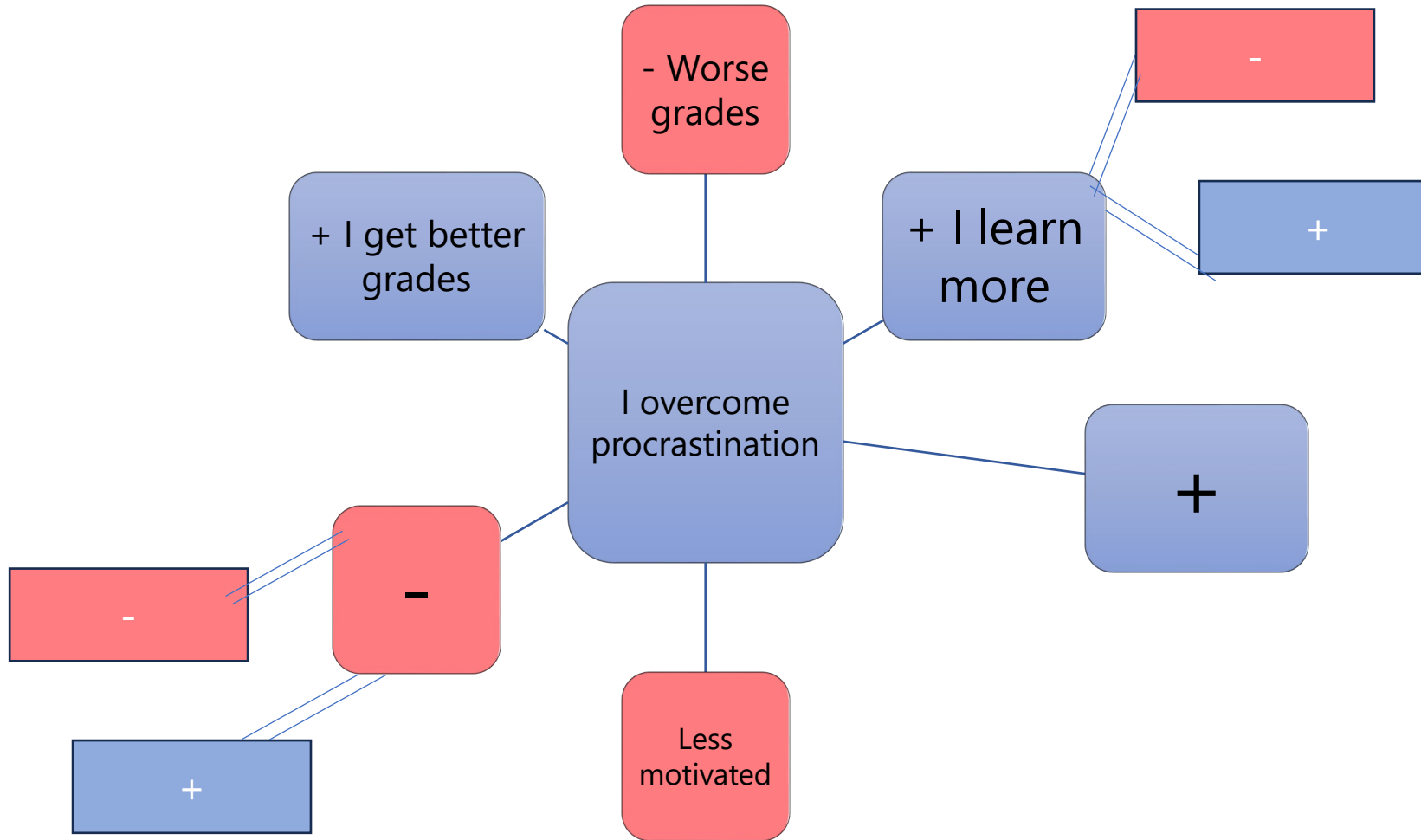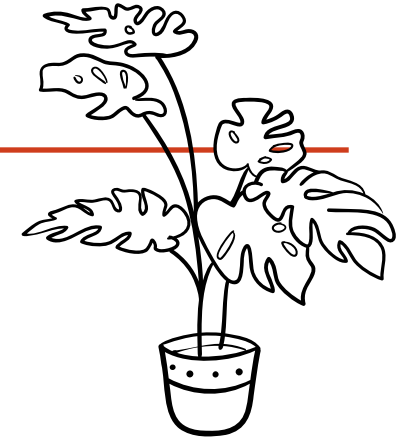
When you reach 2 or 3 level consequences: select the positive and negative ones that are most likely to happen

Generate 2 different ideas to make it happen or to avoid it

7 ways of fostering creative thinking in the classroom

Tool 7: Bring variety to the classroom:

1) Cognitive activity: learning about well-being

2) Social activity: get them to interview each other or other people about well-being

3) Emotional activity: debrief how they felt about it… did they help them learn in a different way.

Measure the amount of information people are using….
Measure the level of connection between people….
Measure the level of trust and relationship building…

Use every opportunity to bring one Aggie core value and make connections of how we can belong through leadership and service

LEARNING BY DOING

Bonus 1

Mural.co can be used to create a community....

There students get to know each other in a non-threatening way and you can share about yourself.

This is me 👀

Post a picture of you that is meaningful to you...
Tell us about a hobby, movie, book, board game.
Drag a photo onto the canvas, or add one using the Mural mobile app.

Dr. Hector Ramos

Hobby.... cooking Asian Food / Spanish Soccer
Favorite movie or TV show... Band Of Brothers
Favorite book / writer .... Paulo Coelho (Alchemist
Favorite board game : Blokus

Name

Drop a photo here

Hobby....
Favorite movie or TV show...
Favorite book or writer ....
Favorite board game ...

Dr. Julio Bernal

Drop a photo here

Hobby....
Favorite movie or TV show...
Favorite book or writer ....
Favorite board game ...

Name

Drop a photo here

Hobby....
Favorite movie or TV show...
Favorite book or writer ....
Favorite board game ...

Javier A. Gonzalez

Hobby.... Cooking and Creative Writing
Favorite movie or TV show... "Knives Out"
Favorite book or writer .... The Hunger Games Series
Favorite board game ... Cameleon

Name

Drop a photo here

Hobby....
Favorite movie or TV show...
Favorite book or writer ....
Favorite board game ...

Name

Drop a photo here

Hobby....
Favorite movie or TV show...
Favorite book or writer ....
Favorite board game ...

Name

Drop a photo here

Hobby....
Favorite movie or TV show...
Favorite book or writer ....
Favorite board game ...

Bonus 2

Mural.co can be used for student to give feedback....

HMW persuade Aggies that creative thinking skills are important?

Laman
Complete the **green** row in every round

Emily
Complete the **teal** row in every round

Cameron
Complete the **blue** row in every round

Hannah West
Complete the **violet** row in every round

Round 1 — 5 minutes

Laman: Idea #1 | Idea #2 | Idea #3
Emily: Idea #1 | Idea #2 | Idea #3
Cameron: Idea #1 | Idea #2 | Idea #3
Hannah West: Idea #1 | Idea #2 | Idea #3

Round 2 — 3 minutes

Laman:
- Successful student entrepreneurs can give a talk on how Creative thinking helped them
- Make it one of the mandatory courses especially for Engineering students

Emily:
- Emphasize all aspects of creativity, not just artsy stuff (i.e., for STEM students)
- Have professionals from all types of fields talk to students about the importance of creativity in there roles
- Recognize students who excel at creativity at Aggie sports events

Cameron:
- Tie creative thinking to the Aggie Core Values
- Have a Creative Thinking Poster presentation at Student Research Week (SRW)
- Promote the creative thinking certificate as a way to show skills to future employers
- ...about the value it has provided
- Fair

Hannah West:
- diff marketing strategies for these classes
- have a requirement for creative thinking classes

Round 3 — 3 minutes

Laman:
- Free creativity workshops in Libraries

Emily:
- Students get to know that there is more to creativity than art
- Students can network with some companies
- How professionals apply creativity in their field

Cameron:
- Favorite Idea: Make creative thinking part of the Hullabaloo-U course

Round 4 — 3 minutes

Cameron:
- Benefit 1: Helps connect creative thinking with academic success
- Benefit 2: Provides students with hands on application of creative thinking skills
- Benefit 3: Helps students learn to learn in new ways

Hannah West:
- have studetns partner with thier degree or other college areas to consult
- everyone must join a creative org

Round 5 — 3 minutes

Laman:
- Informational Article in HOWDY portal: the skills that Industry needs in 2025: Creative Thinking and Innovation

Hannah West:
- network for nonprofits

Round 6 — 3 minutes

Laman:
- Students benefit applying for jobs
- Students get to know the list of skills demanded by employers in 2025
- You can have links to other research articles in this subject.

Emily:
- Require them to complete free online courses on the utility of creative thinking
- Have them identify how creativity has been part of their student experience in the past
- Rewards/ acknowledgements/ certificates/honors for students who excel in creative thinking

Hannah West:
- creative thinking and job career fair

Bonus 3

Mural.co can be used to capture and analyze data

TREND

Areas develop to be successful
Areas develop to be successful
Areas develop to be success...

...son Kimball

Time Management x17

organizationx4

Communicationx2

Student Name:

Develop a greater interest in the subject

Learn from others

Physical Healthx2

...sy Aguilar

Drive/ Persistence/ Grit x3

Adaptability MotivationX4

good/healthy study habits x5

Student Name:

prioritization of my faith x2

social and academic stamina,

positive attitude through failure.

Student Name:

social / mental healthx2

Joining clubs

healthy lifestyle

Self care

Good habits

Working and study skills (x2)

...dent Name:

Good Sleep Schedule x2

perseveranceX2

Balance school/ social life x4

Robert Farland

Academic Determination

strong diligence

dedication x 2

Student Name:

Regular exercise

...toria Wang

Couragex2

Learn to learn x2

Hermione Ruiloba

Adaptability

being pro-active,

not falling behind

Student Name:

balance

...ssa Estremera

making sure to familiarize myself with the rest of campus,

Creativity

Study for each class

Student Name:

Disciplinex2

Patience

Self confidence

Career choice.

emotional maturity

...ant Sonkusare

Having a good balance between school and social life

Keeping track on doing my assignments and not waiting till the last day to do it

Avoiding procrastination

Student Name:

Professional network

meaningful friendships x2

fostering connections

Student Name:

networking

creating good relationships with my teachers and professors. x2

Connections

study groups,

support group

Outlier: become a better learner: *from grade to purpose*

Theme: building different types of relationships

Outlier: design with future plans

Theme: mental, physical health & balance

Some final issues

1 Diverge – converge

2 Get students to reflect

3 Get students to share

4 Get students to document

5 Get students to practice and report

Finished illustration