


2016 WACAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEACHANGE

IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES • JUNE 1-3, 2016



The background image shows a creative workspace. A blue wall is densely decorated with numerous small photographs, string lights, and a large, textured mask. To the left, there is a window with white curtains. On the right, a desk area is visible with a lamp, books, and other creative supplies.

Cultivating Student Creativity in College Applications

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Introductions

Who is the hero of
this story?







Objectives for today:

1. Addressing this question: *How can we be great facilitators?*
2. Examining creative self-expression: how it manifests & what conditions are needed for fullest expression
3. Suggesting some tools for improving student agency







How do you think about *creativity*?

“Creativity is about the considerable freedom
all of us can exercise
within the structures of our lives
as they currently exist.”

- Mark Bryan, Julia Cameron, Catherine Allen,
The Artist's Way at Work


“The ability to replace old, familiar patterns of living and problem-solving with new and equally or more successful ones.”

- Dr. James Masterson, *The Search for the Real Self*

“Every person has a creative side,
and it can be expressed in many ways:
problem solving, original and innovative thinking,
and artistically, to name a few.

Describe how you express your creative side.”

- UC Application, Personal Insight Question #2



“Creativity is the conduit for a student to express his or her authentic self and unique experience.”

- Nick and Linda ;)



Expression is everywhere.



Is there anything normal or unique about your family?

I'm an only child: it's strange how I'm never going to experience what most people have in siblings, but many times I appreciate being the one and only child in a family.

There's a special kindred spirit thing that happens with other only children; I think you value your friendships in a way that others don't.

You are more open to making those relationships because otherwise you're alone a lot, and you appreciate finding someone who you can relate to. You know it's special and you really want to hold onto that because you've never really had that in your home in the same way that others have.



Some Epic Additional Info



Cultivating a climate of creativity:

- Sense of safety & relaxation
- Ambiguity & the unknown
- Space & time to explore
- Connection to the inner voice & impulses

Why college admissions can be creatively stifling:

- Competition, metrics, data: external orientation
 - Pressure to conform to external standards
- Constant, unbroken demands on attention & energy
- High stakes; no space to fail
- Noise, chatter, anxiety

Your best tools as a counselor
to foster creative expression

Make space.

Give the gift of being seen.

Reflect back the themes.

Questions?

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