

Freshman History Seminar

Seminar: Creativity and Innovation

Unit: Chinese Tang and Song Dynasties

Relevance: Can America remain the leader in creativity and innovation?

Readings: Video; Ken Robinson TedTalk – “Schools are killing creativity.”
Youtube – “No Humans Need Apply”
Article: “Elevating Science, Elevating Democracy,” BY Dennis Overbye

Questions:

Did your K-9 education at Roslyn teach you to be creative and innovative? Explain.

Would you agree with Ken Robinson that schools are “killing” creativity?

Rather than school, is it the broader American culture that nurtures or stimulates creativity and innovation? If so, what aspects of American society and culture contribute to this?

It is often argued that the U.S., to stay competitive, must make creativity a priority. How can the U.S. ensure this? What can government do? Perhaps government should do nothing and simply leave it to free enterprise capitalism. In other words, will a free and open capitalistic society naturally produce creativity and innovation?

“If you’re not prepared to be wrong, you’ll never come up with anything original.” Are we accepting of failure? Does your school provide you with opportunities to fail without it affecting you’re grade? Should it?

Can robots / artificial intelligence be creative and innovative?
Does creativity require consciousness?
