OAK VALLEY
COLLEGE

Creative Problem Solving Rubric

Creative problem solving involves the capacity to combine or synthesize existing ideas, images, or expertise in original ways and the experience of thinking, reacting, and working in an imaginative way characterized by a high degree of innovation, divergent thinking, and risk taking. This is then followed by the process of designing, implementing, and evaluating a strategy to answer an open-ended problem or achieve a desired goal.

	Proficient/Excellent A	Very Good/Good B	Average/Fair C	Poor D/F
Define Problem	Demonstrates the ability to construct a clear and insightful problem statement with evidence of relevant contextual factors.	Demonstrates the ability to construct a problem statement with evidence of some relevant contextual factors, and the problem statement is adequately detailed.	Begins to demonstrate the ability to construct a problem statement with evidence of most relevant contextual factors, but the problem statement is superficial.	Demonstrates a limited ability in identifying a problem statement or related contextual factors.
Identify Strategies	Identifies multiple approaches for solving the problem that apply within a specific context.	Identifies multiple approaches for solving the problem, only some of which apply within a specific context.	Identifies only a single approach for solving the problem that does apply within a specific context.	Identifies one or more approaches for solving the problem that do not apply within a specific context.
Acquiring Competencies *This step refers to acquiring strategies and skills within a particular domain.*	Reflect: Demonstrates reflective qualities within the creative process.	Create: Creates an entirely new object, solution, or idea without establishing a reflective quality.	Adapt: Successfully adapts an appropriate exemplar to his/her own specifications but fails to create something "innovative."	Model: Reproduces an appropriate exemplar but fails to adapt, create, or reflect, or "innovate."
Taking Risks *May include personal risk (fear of embarrassment or rejection) or risk*	Actively seeks out and follows through on untested and potentially risky directions or approaches to the assignment in the final product.	Incorporates new directions or approaches to the assignment in the final product.	Considers new directions or approaches without going beyond the guidelines of the assignment.	Stays strictly within the guidelines of the assignment.

of failure in successfully completing assignment,			
Solving Problems	Develops a logical, consistent plan to solve the problem, recognizing consequences of solutions and articulating reasons for choosing the desired solution.	Having selected from among alternatives, develops a logical, consistent plan to solve the problem.	Considers and rejects less acceptable approaches to solving the problem.	Only a single approach is considered and is used to solve the problem.
Embracing Contradictions	Integrates alternate, divergent, or contradictory perspectives or ideas fully.	Incorporates alternate, divergent, or contradictory perspectives or ideas in an exploratory way.	Includes (recognizes the value of) alternate, divergent, or contradictory perspectives or ideas in a minimal way.	Acknowledges (mentions in passing) alternate, divergent, or contradictory perspectives or ideas.
Innovative Thinking *Novelty or uniqueness (of idea, claim, question, form, etc.)*	Extends a novel or unique idea, question, format, or product to create new knowledge or knowledge that crosses boundaries.	Creates a novel or unique idea, question, format, or product.	Experiments with creating a novel or unique idea, question, format, or product.	Reformulates a collection of available ideas.
Connecting, Synthesizing, Transforming	Transforms ideas or solutions into entirely new forms.	Synthesizes ideas or solutions into a coherent whole.	Connects ideas or solutions in novel ways.	Recognizes existing connections among ideas or solutions.
Implement Solution	Implements a comprehensive solution in a manner addressing multiple contextual factors of the problem.	Implements a solution in a manner that addresses multiple contextual factors of the problem at a surface level.	Implements the solution in a manner that addresses the problem statement but ignores relevant contextual factors.	Implements the solution in a manner that does not directly address the problem.
Evaluate Outcomes	Reviews results relative to the problem defined with thorough, specific considerations of need for further work.	Reviews results relative to the problem defined with some consideration of need for further work.	Reviews results in terms of the problem defined with little, if any, consideration of need for further work.	Reviews results superficially in terms of the problem defined with no consideration of need for further work