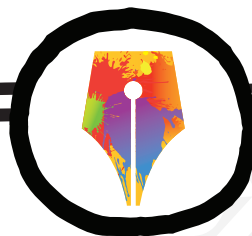


MAKING THE MOST OF **YOUR** *Creativity Style*



You may strongly identify with one style, or maybe you're a Chameleon, taking on the style that suits the moment.. Whatever your mix, here are some strategies to consider as you work through Inklings Lab: Design a Novel.



CREATIVITY STYLE:

The Inventor



"I have an idea..."

Ideas? You've got a hive of them buzzing around that busy brain of yours. For the most part, creativity is joyful for you... that is, until you have to grind through the nitty-gritty bits. You want enticing strategies that help you play your way through the drafting and revision process, especially when you're starting to lose your mojo. And you don't want canned tips and tricks that work for the masses; you want ideas that leave room for you to make your process your own.

PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS:

Novelty delights and inspires you. Gather a box of materials to keep the planning and drafting process lively. For example, collect helpful questions that stand out during our course on slips of paper and keep them in a question jar. Create image flashcards as quick idea-sparkers. Gather other fun items that inspire creative thinking. My box also includes Play-Doh, colored pencils, magazines for collage and more.

WHEN YOU'RE STUCK:

1. USE COLORFUL OFFICE SUPPLIES

Colorful supplies make work feel like play. Entice your creativity back into the Inklings Lab: Design a Novel planning and drafting process with fun tools. Try a set of new markers or freshly sharpened colored pencils to push past resistance.

2. PLAY AROUND THE EDGES OF THE PROBLEM

Try collaging, going for a walk or creating a play list that fits the tone of your novel. Rather than approaching play with an agenda, such as "I'm going to play this game to fix my problem," try setting the problem aside while you play. Even though this may not feel practical, it will often end up being more efficient (and fun!) than spinning your wheels forcing an insight or breakthrough.



CREATIVITY STYLE:

The Architect



"Above all, start with a plan."

Your brain loves structure, checklists, and outlines. As long as your work lines up with your blueprint, you easily stay in motion. You might start to feel stuck when a project doesn't go as planned or your finished product feels shallow or wrong in a way you can't quite pin down. You appreciate step-by-step guidance, clear objectives, and easy-to-measure progress.

PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS:

The big-picture thinking and wide range of possibilities at the beginning of the creative process may feel overwhelming at times. Structure your Inklings Lab: Design a Novel experience to keep yourself motivated and on track. Block out regular sessions for watching videos and doing the activities. Keep your materials in one organized location. Choose one journal to collect ideas and questions between sessions. Use the checklists in each chapter as a guide to keep yourself on track.

WHEN YOU'RE STUCK:

1. MAKE A LIST

Manage the many details by listing them. Next, organize them into a logical order. You can then consider one decision or question at a time.

2. USE CAUSE AND EFFECT THINKING

Review the decisions you've already made, and use those givens to figure out what the next logical choice should be. Instead of looking over the project as a whole, stick to this step-by-step thinking until you find your way out of the confusing spot.



CREATIVITY STYLE:

The Collaborator



"Together, we do great things."

Whether you're bouncing ideas off a friend, talking out the next chapter, or problem-solving a snag, what you value most throughout the creative process is a friend or, even better, a group of them. Sometimes the quieter parts of creative thinking are a challenge, so you appreciate opportunities to invite others into your process at each stage of the game.

PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS:

Be intentional about staying connected as you move through the Inklings Lab: Design a Novel course. Use the comments section to share your work and comment on other people's progress. Reach out to Naomi after each lesson to answer the question and share your thoughts and questions. If you have a friend in the course, connect with them via Google docs, video chat, or text to share successes and struggles. Or, if not, choose a creative friend who you can talk with about your progress. Better yet, invite them to join us and take part, too!

WHEN YOU'RE STUCK:

1. TALK IT OUT

For Collaborators, the voice is a powerful tool. When you're stuck, try telling a story out loud. These don't need to be moments you'll use in the book. Instead, use them to better understand characters, setting, and plot. For instance, tell a moment from a character's history, or a past event that happened in the world of the story. Your friend's questions, feedback and encouragement will likely be a powerful source of un-blocking.

2. RECORD YOUR THOUGHTS AND LISTEN

If you don't have anyone to talk to at the moment, try recording your voice and playing it back. Even without a friend, hearing your ideas out loud will be helpful.



CREATIVITY STYLE:

The Special Agent



"Focus, and get it done."

Why take the long road when a shortcut is there for the taking? Getting to "the end" is one of your favorite things. Even so, you want to finish strong and feel proud of what you created. For you, the best strategies are the ones that help streamline the creative process and keep you humming along on track.

PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS:

Prepare yourself for your next session by thinking about it ahead of time. Each Cool Down video gives you a question or two to consider in preparation for the next chapter. Make the most of those prompts. If some research is needed, do that work before the next session. If thinking is in order, plant the key questions in the back of your mind, and mull them over as you drift off to sleep. You'll likely wake up with answers.

WHEN YOU'RE STUCK:

1. FINISH SOMETHING

Momentum is your friend. The longer you stay stuck, the more entrenched the block becomes. If you're stuck on a certain chapter, don't wait for inspiration to strike. Instead, make a decision and push forward. If you can't take the project forward but you still need momentum, choose a small task that you can finish easily. Clean out a drawer or fix something that's broken. The endorphin burst that comes with the small win may rattle loose the answer you need for your novel.

2. BREAK THE CHALLENGE INTO PARTS

For instance, clarifying your character may involve answering questions such as, "What makes them likable?" and "How can I give them more strength?" Prioritize your questions based on importance to you. Then, create a "How might I ..." question and put your Special Agent thinking to work.