

# *Innovators Toolkit*

DESIGN THINKING  
AWARENESS GUIDE

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Innovators Toolkit: Design Thinking Awareness Guide  
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# *Preface*

Through this little e-book, I hope to help you design your creativity methodology for application to various real-world challenges you may face. There are 5 selected skills recommended in our Innovators Toolkit, and your simple awareness and mastery of these skills can uplift your outlook and sense of purpose. Push yourself to practice these skills on independent work as well as in collaborations, and discover your potential for mindful focus, passion & impact. Embrace these life lessons for success & happiness along your creativity journey.

*Read Me*

## Read Me

*There are 5 named skills in this e-book. Each is accompanied by a (very) brief description & a few tips to get started. The form of each skill may grow, re-shape or shift over time so revisit this list occasionally. Use the Practices section to test your understanding of each skill, establishing your awareness & aptitude.*

*Asking  
Questions*



## *Asking Questions*

### *Get comfortable with asking questions.*

Ask a question with anticipation of a good answer.

Expect useful outcomes from your questions.

### *Express your curiosity with questions.*

Enjoy the passion to learn more. Either something

new or more details about something.

### *It's easy to start a question.*

Become familiar with the words that commonly start

questions. Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?

Which? Pick one then complete the question.

*Fast  
Creative  
Thinking*

## *Fast Creative Thinking*

### *Focus on flow & quantity.*

With creativity, we explore ideas across space & time. We are excited by both the familiar and un-familiar.

### *Full spectrum from normal to crazy.*

Some ideas will be normal and shared by others. Some ideas, our really creative ideas, will reveal our more original & crazy dimensions.

### *Capture each & every idea.*

Each idea that enters our imagination becomes a candidate for further consideration. Not even one idea should get doubted or rejected.

*Divergent-  
Convergent  
Thinking*

## *Divergent-Convergent Thinking*

*We need options.*

To exercise our sense of awareness through emotional intelligence, we seek options.

*Expand. Reduce. Repeat.*

Divergent-convergent thinking is coupled & repeatable. It adds excitement to exploration.

*Blur then focus. Analog then digital.*

The picture changes back & forth. One asks for commitment & the other does not.

*Filling &  
Crossing  
Gaps*

## *Filling & Crossing Gaps*

### *Unknowns. Uncertainties. Uncharted. Fuzzies.*

Along our journey from here to there, recognize the gaps for the excitement that they add.

### *Interpolation. Extrapolation. Regression.*

Don't give up because of gaps. Learn how to fill & cross them so you can continue your journey.

### *Opportunities, Mastery & Leadership.*

See gaps as opportunities that build up your mastery & adds meaning to your life through leading the way.

*Positivity*



## *Positivity*

### *Effort with benefits.*

Framing situations in a positive light elevates our awareness and ability to take action.

### *First impression. Lasting impression.*

What will your user experience in the first seconds of contact with your offering? Will your user want to recall the experience?

### *No-cost sources. Details.*

Use quick & simple ways to trigger happiness through our senses. Insert positivity. Push for positivity.

*Practices*

## *Practices*

### *Feature List.*

“What is included” -> “Why you should get it”

Practice creative decision-making using  
divergent-convergent thinking.

### *Gratitude.*

Practice emotional intelligence & positivity  
through the gratitude exercise. Make it a daily  
practice for better mind & health.

### *30 Circles (or Squares) Test.*

Keep doing the 30 Circles Test to strengthen your  
creativity and stretch your imagination.

*If you  
reached this  
point...*

*If you reached this point...*

*Enjoy the view.*

Do you have a new outlook on creativity, design & innovation? Can you see farther and clearer...and gasp at the amazing view?

*Practice for mastery.*

Apply these 5 skills in your next project. Try to feel a stronger sense of control, passion & freedom in your creative thinking.

*Spread the word.*

Could you talk about what these 5 skills have done for you? Could you help others master these 5 skills? If so, your awareness is complete.

**Colin Ong** is the founder and director of the Youth Creativity, Innovation & Sustainable Leadership program at Stanford University where he is an Adjunct Professor specializing in youth creativity and sustainability design thinking. He has mentored in science fairs, sports and college readiness. His hobbies include web design, gardening and food blogging.

*Congratulations!*

*By checking the back cover, you are showing a curiosity for innovation. Look inside for advice on creativity thinking skills that will make your design thinking journey a lot more masterful.*