Creativity in the workplace doesn’t just refer to artwork (but that can certainly be a part of it). Taking extra steps to inspire creative thinking toward your work is a valuable tool for unlocking powerful solutions.

A key to creativity is genuine curiosity. Try asking yourself these questions to trigger insightful, creative thinking or enlighten a new perspective:

- What is something popular in your industry right now? How can you bring ideas from that into what you’re working on?
- What could be a metaphor or analogy to explain a challenge you’re working on to someone completely unfamiliar with your work?
- If you had to explain the work you do on a daily basis using only a pencil and paper — and no words — how would you do it?

**CALL TO ACTION:**

- Take a few minutes each day to step away from your everyday work environment. Can you go for a walk? Could you talk to someone you normally don’t see daily?
- Inspire creativity in others. The next time you hear your colleagues thinking through a tough problem, try asking these exploratory lead-in questions:
  - “How might we...”
  - “What if/why/whether we could...”
  - “In what ways can we...”
  - “What would it be like if...”
- Ask someone in a different department (or better yet, a different industry) how they would solve a problem you’re encountering.

**KEEP ON LEARNING**

- Watch this 4-minute Lynda/Linkedin video on Brainstorming with Chris Croft
- For leaders, check out this short Forbes article on 15 Ways Leaders Can Promote Creativity In The Workplace