

# Using Creativity to Find Your Path: Classroom Lesson Plan

## Lesson Topic:

Using Creativity to Find Your Path

## Lesson Objective:

Students will be able to describe the importance of creativity and curiosity in discovering opportunities.

## Materials:

- Writing utensils
- **When One Door Closes...** worksheets, one per student
- Projector or other method to watch the video

## Advanced Preparation:

- Preview the [video](#) before sharing it with your students [3:02].
- Make copies of **When One Door Closes...**, one per student.

## Warm-up Activity:

1. Say, "Raise your hand if you ever tried something you weren't sure about and ended up liking it."
2. Allow any students that want to share their experiences a few moments to do so.
3. Ask, "How might being creative or openminded help guide you through life?"

4. Direct students to turn and talk to a partner. Then, call the class back together to share their ideas.

### **View the Video: "Using Creativity to Find Your Path"**

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "Using Creativity to Find Your Path".
2. Explain that the video shows role models discussing the importance of creativity and curiosity in discovering your passions and finding a fulfilling path through life.
3. View the video together. Invite students to formulate questions or comments about the ideas discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.

### **Video Follow-up:**

1. Ask students to offer their questions, comments, reactions, and responses to the video.
2. Distribute **When One Door Closes...** worksheets. Direct students to read Vera Wang's story and be prepared to discuss it as a class. *Depending on students' age and level, this reading could also be completed in small groups or as a read aloud.*
3. Use some or all of the following questions to discuss **When One Door Closes...**:
  - What did Vera want to be when she was young?
  - How many different jobs did Vera have? What were they?
  - How did creativity, curiosity, or being open-minded help Vera in her life?
  - How has creativity, curiosity, or being open-minded helped you in your life?

- What “doors” closed in Vera’s life? What “doors” opened in her life?
  - How did Vera follow her passions?
  - One role model in the video mentioned that her father held the same job for 30 years, but that didn’t happen very often anymore. Vera also had lots of different jobs. How do you think this might apply to your life? What types of jobs would you like to have?
  - How can you ensure you take advantage of “open doors” or opportunities in your life?
  - Sometimes it can feel hard or scary to try new things. How can you push past those feelings?
4. Close the lesson by reminding students that being curious, creative, or open-minded can lead them places they never imagined. Ultimately, creating a happy, fulfilling life is everyone’s goal and discovering new interests and passions can help to lead you down a path that you will enjoy.

## When One Door Closes...

Have you heard of Vera Wang? She is one of the most successful fashion designers in the world. But she didn't get there overnight!

When she was young, all Vera wanted to do was figure skate. She trained hard and spent lots of her free time practicing. Eventually, she set a goal to qualify for the Olympics. But after years of hard work, during the qualifying competition, she wasn't placed in the top three. This meant that she couldn't continue on to the Olympics!

Vera couldn't be an Olympic-level figure skater, so now what? At first, she didn't know. But she had always been interested in fashion and design. So she decided to look for a job at a fashion magazine.

She got a job at Vogue, a well-known fashion magazine. She was an assistant to the fashion director. After showing her dedication and working hard, she was promoted to the fashion editor position. This meant she was using her passion for fashion and her design skills. She created the magazine's fashion photography articles.

After a few years, Vera realized that her real passion was designing her own clothing and accessories. But with her job at Vogue, she didn't have enough free time to design anything! Vera decided she needed to look for another job.

She got a new job designing accessories like belts and purses at Ralph Lauren. Vera was happy here. She had plenty of time to work with materials and come up with her own designs.

Shortly afterwards, her boyfriend proposed. Vera was going to get married! But first, she needed to find a dress. After looking all over,



she couldn't find anything she liked. In fact, she thought most of the bridal dresses looked terrible! Vera realized that other brides probably felt the same way. So, she decided to leave Ralph Lauren and begin designing the type of bridal dresses she wanted to wear.

Today, she designs bridal dresses, high-fashion pieces, jewelry, eyeglasses, and more.

Vera has five stores in the United States as well as stores in other countries such as China and Australia. She has also worked on lots of fun projects! Vera has designed costumes for professional figure skaters and created uniforms for the Philadelphia Eagles professional football cheerleading team.

Her path wasn't easy, but Vera followed her interests and passions. She looked for opportunities and wasn't discouraged when things didn't go her way. And ultimately, she found a path to a life that made her happy.

Sources:

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vera-Wang>

<https://wwd.com/feature/vera-wang-history-1235909839/>

### Extension Activities:

1. Encourage students to explore the lives of other famous people or people in their own community. Consider having students identify the opportunities or passions these individuals had. Students could also create a career path or timeline of the individual's life. Some interesting possibilities include Ina Garten and Madeline Albright.
2. Use the "Related Questions to Explore" as discussion springboards or writing prompts to help students further explore using creativity to identify opportunities.

### Related Questions to Explore:

- What changes have happened recently in your life? What opportunities came from those changes?
- Where might you look for new opportunities?
- Why is it so important to try things, even if you're not sure that you will like them?
- Do you think the things you love now will always be the things you love? Why or why not?
- If your passions are very different from your friends' passions, how might you feel? What can you do to push through and continue pursuing your passions even if it feels a little lonely sometimes?
- What can you do if you don't feel like you've found your passions? What steps might you take to identify them?



## Ideas for Future Lessons/Activities Related to Using Creativity to Find Your Path:

1. What Do You Love? Exploring Your Passions
2. Think Outside the Box: Identifying Job Opportunities and Career Fields Outside the Norm
3. My Community's Opportunities: Discovering Local Opportunities in Newspapers, Online, and at School
4. What's My Path? Crafting a Personal Vision Statement
5. Who Am I? Identifying and Applying Your Personal Strengths
6. Tune In to Yourself: Mindfulness Practices to Find Your Purpose
7. What Are My Options? Discovering Different Life Paths Through Community Interviews