

IDEAS 24

**International Online Teachers Society
Debate
Educational Materials For
Advance and Upper Intermediate
Students**



**International Online Teachers Society
Publishing Committee**



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BRIGHT MINDS

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When the Wright Brothers invented the first airplanes, not only a sign of technology was advancing but the intellectual minds were booming to the extent that one can never know what the mind can come up with. However, to be innovative, you must free your soul from any limitations that may act as obstacles to your creativity.

Innovation is not necessarily associated with technology, progression or fame, as a matter of fact, it is a step that you take in order to highlight your character in many different ways. For example, a child can simply innovate a character that helps him or her to accommodate with the environment he or she is in for a better living standard, which is known as spiritual innovation. Another example is the physical innovation through which a person builds up real relationships with people for the purpose of exercising the communicative and interpersonal skills. The final example is the concrete innovation. Innovation involving creating devices such as cars, tools and so on, designing items such as in construction, making up stories, being poetic and any other literary creation.

Innovation is also a self-discovery journey where you get to seek your inner soul and true character because one cannot invent anything, whether physical or not, unless this is triggered from the inside. Such skill commences from the early years of a person's short life, and it is necessary to acknowledge what you possess and bring it into light to steer your character to the top of the mountain. Of course, little effort is required to elevate yourself, and nothing is done without any hard work, dedication and challenges or risks. An example of an innovator is Albert Einstein's speed of time ($E = mc^2$), who has claimed the time channel and zone, but was accused of insanity and his reputation became on stake. However, he has become famous for decades now due to his hard work and innovation, which is included in almost every school books, encyclopedias, websites and talks in all around the world.

Shed light onto yourself and be innovative by listening to your egoism, which pushes you to the level of a beautiful mind. Don't consider innovation as a ticket to Hollywood, but consider it a ticket to your self-development.

Questions for discussion:

1. What kind of innovation the author is talking about?
2. How many examples of innovation has the author mentioned? List them.
3. Did this topic trigger something about you?
4. Why is innovation important?
5. Create your own proverb revolving this theme.



INNOVATION

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Third world countries are characterized by unstable financial system, over population, hunger, and as a matrix for trade exploitation. Nations belonging to what a French demographer Alfred Sauvy tagged as “ Le Tiers-Monde”, are just inert to compete. But still, survival just threads to motivate these poor countries. But the cycle of capitalist countries who dominates and maneuvers international trade and industry over underdeveloped countries, is scraping in undesirable results for the less competitive economies.

Asia, Africa, Oceania and Latin America are becoming stagnant by just becoming suppliers of raw materials to countries who is at the tower of the foreign market. And the irony of it, these unprivileged countries purchase finish products from rich countries. A still orbit occurs wherein the rich becomes richer and the less fortunate stay as is. How can we break the chain of this sequence? How can we turn the coin upside down for Tiers-Monde?

Innovation is the only key to unlock the instability of underdeveloped countries. It shouldn't contain its meaning on inventing new products that will boost in the market. It should also connote advancement in terms of motivation, which is the government's task to encourage its constituents to have fresh solution on how to supply needs without depending much on what well-off countries are selling. It should also be directed in tackling new ideas for rehabilitating internal problems of such impoverish countries. Example is over population, corruption, tax evasion and smuggling. These factors hem the monetary unsteadiness. Hence, the solution is to loan in international banks, thus creating debts that will cause more imbalances to the next generation.

Another lead for innovations is to have self assessment. A country should examine how they can excel in order to race towards success in the “quality merchandize business”. If they can generate solutions from such study, new steps will be taken in making new and dependable products that will stand against the law of supply and demand. Thus, if such actions are considered, it will somehow balance a country's finances as well as create a stepping stone for a better economy.

There was a time that Japan closed itself to the world. They tried to contain every single citizen in their country. After a while when Japan decided to be out in the open, we see it as one of the industrialized countries in Asia, able to magnify their image in terms of their people and the kind of product they manufacture. This is the kind of innovation that the third world countries have to learn, absorbed and inscribe in their system. And all these facets of innovation lie in the hands of those who govern. Quite a task for such leaders but will have a promising effect in terms of their country's fight for survival.

Questions for discussion:

1. Do you agree that a country's level of development depends on what they innovate?
2. Can you rate the quality of innovation base on the demand in the market?
3. How can innovation start in a country and how will you maintain it?
4. Why should a country learn about innovation?
5. Will the innovations of the third world countries be more competitive compared to capitalist countries? Why?



FLOODGATES TO INNOVATION

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We often wonder how we could have advancement and growth for us to open the floodgates to innovation. When we want to experience a development in any area of our life, we begin to think of ways in doing so,... thus, putting out our creativity. With your creativity, new ideas are put out leading to innovation. Then we get to experience a great change paving the way to growth in the whole sense of it.

Sometimes people become so complacent that they refuse to have a change in their life and improve their way of living. They cease to be persistent in what they are doing and want to happen. The world is full of examples of complacency and fear which cause industries to become either extinct or inconsequential. They miss the true significance of innovation which is actually protecting us from the future. It has been proven that the number one thing people fear is when they are being forced to change. It poses a threat for them in both their status quo and facing that risk of failure, if the change does not really work at all. The impediment that these things create hinders growth and change.

On the other hand, according to Wikipedia's definition, innovation refers to the use of new idea or method. This only means that when creativity is being displayed as a result of this new concept, change or development occurs. It is therefore tantamount to opening the floodgates to innovation for creativity is being implemented for that matter. Each one of us has that natural creativity quotient which defines our ability to be creative. The same thing holds true when we have that intelligence quotient which clearly exemplifies our ability to learn new knowledge, natural athletic ability and so on. A concrete example would be learning how to play golf well but not anyone can surpass the way Tiger Woods excel in this field. He gives us the exact illustration of a combination of natural ability to play golf that well and perfect his craft by means of his constant practice. It shows that he is practicing a great deal for this matter.

We can not disclose the fact that we all know Steve Jobs who was the late Apple innovator and who is an erudite in his own right. He too opened the floodgates to innovation. We could make something better like what these famous people have done. It is true that not everyone can turn himself to be a creative genius. But everyone can learn to improve their creativity and innovation skills through reading, exercising their minds and practice. Keep that fire burning and aim towards change to improve your way of living. After all there is no harm in trying to be at our best. Let us take into serious thought that creative idea in us and turn it into reality opening the floodgates to innovation.

Questions for discussion:

1. How can a person unlock one's creativity to open the floodgates to innovation?
2. What is the true significance of innovation?
3. Do you want to learn innovative ways and stop being complacent? How would you do it?
4. Do you believe that everyone is a genius in his own right too? How can you apply this in your life?
5. Until when would you subject yourself to fear and hide that innovative skills in you? How could you overcome this fear?



THE ESSENCE OF INNOVATION

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Where does innovation start? There would be myriad answers to this question that would personally trigger us to think the origin of innovation. The fact that we know the meaning of this simple word, yet wide in scope and limitation, which draws different lines of boundaries, points out multiple directions and brings essential concepts and notions to each and everyone all around the globe. If we would look into different angles and dimensions where innovation is concerned, it seems to be a cognate to an invention due to the fact that it is utilizing the idea of something to become better. Something that is usable, something that is more effective and something that is more convenient for the people to have is the significant output of innovating something. But the question is, where did it begin? Did someone innovate something because an expert created something new, something fresh and something unique? It is, partly yes, because that person was motivated to introduce a new product, a new technology, a new device and the like to compare and contrast his enlightened mind of doing so to the other. Likewise, he would like to strive against another to gain an advantage or victory and present the product of his brilliant mind of creating something important to mankind. Clearly, that person is thinking the best that he could create from the moment his brain works. In other words, innovation started to create something new and better from his magnificent mind. It is where the point of innovation began before an invention is skillfully made.

How do innovators begin to create something better? It's hard to conceptualize a certain idea without a definite purpose. Let's say, you're the one. You have to diagnose the need of the people according to its priority and value. You have to be more conscious for a better reception. You have to think the real consequences of innovating something which will be surely benefited by the people and much more, to be practically and profitably used without severe drawbacks in all aspect. Have you ever thought of pros and cons? They are integral when it comes to innovation. Why is it so? It is simply because you have to heartily avoid failure. It is disappointing because your conceptualized idea was not truly accepted by the majority of people who are always looking forward a greater innovation. In other words, there was a poor reception of your innovation. But it doesn't end there for a reason that a line must continue. If you failed this way, do more and do better that way because a mind of innovation has a strong determination which anchors the heart and the mind to go on and on.

What's the real essence of innovation? Perhaps we had summarized all the successful innovators and inventors since the history was written in a certain period of time. They were the people who utilized their minds to function and create innovative products. Until now, we have great and intelligent people who innovate something using their creative minds for our generation. However, it has come to a point that some of these innovators became complacent and satisfied of what they have done for us. They slowed the motion of development and stayed in a place of contentment. It is a freedom that would eat them up to be stagnant. That brings sadness because their spirit of inspiration will gradually perish and would turn dark itself which cannot light up the next generation. Where does a wonderful mind go when this happens? We don't know for sure. But despite all of these, innovation itself is a change into something new to our society. We should not forget its essence which is to continue the chain of creativeness and lead into a new possible development. The meaning and importance of innovation should not stop. It is, indeed, a continuous process.

Questions for discussion:

1. In your own opinion, what is innovation?
2. Why do we need innovation?
3. How does innovation differ from invention?
4. What's the essence of innovation? Elaborate your answer using your own idea.
5. If you could innovate something, what could it be and why?



PERSONAL INNOVATION

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Who does not want to advance and progress to have development and achieve personal innovation? Every individual would want to improve not only their way of life but also their way of thinking and action. Our life is an ever changing matter. There is no permanent thing here on earth because everything is subject to change no matter how hard we try procrastinating events and happenings that occur. Definitely, personal development is needed but when personal development is delayed, this is when personal innovation steps in.

Personal innovation is about reconsidering the ways on the things that you do daily to help yourself improve with each passing day. During the past years, you may have applied personal development but we must remember that everything is susceptible to change. A person can be successful during the previous years but may not be in the near future. This is the sole reason why a commitment to personal innovation should be made by every individual to recreate oneself for his betterment. By this way, one can achieve success and have personal development on a higher level.

As the word innovation implies, it is all about fresh and new ideas, new methods, improvements, and advancement as well. Innovation is the process of making improvements by means of introducing something new and useful. We should look for innovative ways to energize our development to improve what has been set in place. Personal innovation means making yourself better in whatever you do and put yourselves in. It is always striving to find new ways to be at our best. It also means looking at things with a fresh set of eyes and perspective, and at the same time be aware and be sensitive to all the changes in your profession, trends, and many more. It follows that we should innovate to prepare our self for the next level of development on a personal level.

We should walk an extra mile for us to innovate ourselves. Personal innovation is important in the sense that we are able to demonstrate and exercise our creative skills, thus setting yourself apart from the majority of the people around you. When you innovate yourself, you keep afresh new things making them more meaningful, fun and exciting. You are able to break monotony and make yourself in charge to find innovative ways to improve yourself and your craft. Do not just be like any other people who do not put their passion or intention behind their personal innovation.

Make yourself stand out from the rest and do not just be contented with what you do and who you are right now. Try to add a new skill and challenge yourself to learn a new craft or art. Hence, try to innovate yourself by trying to make an accomplishment in whatever you are in at the moment. Yes, you can believe, aspire and innovate for advancement. Make that commitment not to settle for something less but to always try delivering your best. Try to make your life more meaningful making it less mundane and boring. To top it all, beat ennui by attaining personal development which leads to personal innovation.

Questions for discussion:

1. Do you just do what anybody has been doing or do you look for ways to add innovative approaches and creativity into it? How?
2. Have you innovated yourself in the past 2 years, 5 years or ten years of your life? Or are you just comfortable with how things are right now? Explain your answer.
3. Do you look for ways to innovate yourself on a daily basis? Justify your answer.
4. Have you achieved that passion to attain personal innovation and be a success? In what way?
5. In your own perspective, what is personal innovation?



DO I-KNOW-VATION?

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“There's a zombie on your lawn... I don't want zombies on my lawn.” You probably haven't played Plants vs. Zombies yet if you just plainly read the quoted text. You ought to have sung it – yes it is a song and the first single in the record of the singing sunflowers. Cannot follow? Play the game; guaranteed: no regrets.

Many people – children and adults – have once been addicted to this game. Why? It is because the game is a perfect example of a product of innovation. A genius has come up with a marvelous game. An introduction of a cutting edge invention that creates a great impact on many people is innovation. How is it achieved? The equation is simple: one's creativity plus purpose plus work. There are many computer games out there, but only few stand out. However, innovation is not only about the best of games, but virtually about the exceptional of everything. TV show: we have the perennial Pokémon; technology: Job's Apple is just one of the many; movies: the superb effects of science fiction films.

Innovations are not limited to physical things. May I coin the word “abstract innovations” to describe the presentation of new ideas that are not only perceived by the senses? Style in singing could be one as methods of teaching could be another. Some may argue that these forms of innovation are still, more or less, observed by the human perceptions; however, they may only be seeing the utilization of them. It follows this pattern: creation of ideas – devising an invention – putting into usage. Similar to: discovery in science – development of technology – employment of end products. The same with: creativity – innovation – utilization.

Why is innovation important? Why else but it benefits humans. I believe a historical overview will help us understand. Wave 1: the earliest ancestors of humans invented tools made of animal bones and stones. Wave 5: one dexterous Mesopotamian invented the wheel. Mind you, if he – whoever he was – had missed it, we might not be having cars until now. Wave 25: the birth of spacecrafts for explorations. Wave 50: the internet! Need I say more about the benefits of it? Wave 75: gadgets, and more gadgets, we are all drowning. Wave 71: Plants vs. Zombies. Wave 72: Angry Birds. And pretty soon, Wave 125: human colonies on Mars.

Innovation improves the quality of living. At times, it may also help people achieve longevity. It greatly affects the many different aspects of culture, though people usually just link innovation to technology.

Why is it good to be innovative? First, people will appreciate the work. Personally, I admired the inventors of Plants vs. Zombies in the superlative. I couldn't have thought of that myself, and many more, I am certain. So applause, applause for them creators! Second, you inspire others. You put innovation on the face of the planet, others' creativity may be aroused, and in turn, they may produce equally-beneficial innovative stuff.

Everyone can be innovative in his or her own way. Just because you are not good at science theories does not mean that you cannot introduce a magnificent invention. Explore thy inner talent, and use them accordingly. Thinking? Good! Creating? Better!

Questions for discussion:

1. Do some reflection. Because everyone can be innovative. What is the probable scope of yours?
2. How is innovation influential?
3. What is the greatest “giant leap for mankind”?
4. Why is creativity different from innovation?
5. What can you say about “abstract innovation”?
6. BONUS QUESTION: What are your favorite plants when playing Plants vs. Zombies, Survival Endless Mode.



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