

## Lesson 26 Worksheet: The Ultimate Measure of Your Success

This worksheet will help you review the progress you have made in The Creative Pathfinder – and steer a course for future success.

**1. Review your goals from the start of The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Creative Foundation Course**

Firstly, re-read lessons 1 and 2:

<http://lateralaction.com/what-do-you-want/>

<http://lateralaction.com/make-yourself-indispensable/>

Now review your answers to the worksheets for these lessons.

How many of these goals have you already achieved?

What is still left to do?

Do you want to adjust your goals in the light of what you have learned since?

## **2. Creativity**

(a) Start with the questions from this week's lesson:

What is it you're building?

How do you know if you're doing a good job of it?

How will you know when it's finished?

(b) Now consider the evolving role of feedback and critical thinking in your work:

Who do you currently go to for feedback to help your professional development?

Who can help you with feedback in future?

What are you doing to hone your critical thinking skills?

(See these articles for some tips:

<http://www.wishfulthinking.co.uk/2007/12/09/three-ways-to-assess-your-own-creative-work/>

<http://the99percent.com/tips/6971/Why-Your-Inner-Critic-Is-Your-Best-Friend> )

How often do you follow your gut instinct? Could it be time to pay more attention to it?

## **2. Money**

Do you believe starving artists are better artists? Be honest!

If so – what difference would it make if you stopped believing it, and started believing that healthy, wealthy, happy artists can also be great artists?

How much money feels like it would be 'enough' for you?

Supposing you earned more money than that, what could you do with the extra? Write down as many options as possible – you don't have to commit to any just yet!

### **3. Reputation**

How important is it to you to have the respect of your professional peers?

How important is it to have a high critical reputation?

How important is fame to you?

Whatever you answer to the last three questions – what do you need to do to achieve the profile you want?

#### **4. Impact**

We sometimes hear – rightly – that we take too many things for granted, so we should practise gratitude by calling to mind all the good things we have in our lives.

But I've not heard so much about the amount of personal impact we take for granted. I'm talking about *the positive difference you are already making* to others and to the world at large, without even noticing it. So the next few questions will help you raise your awareness of this, and prepare to make even more impact in future.

N.b. when I talk about 'positive impact' I mean anything you have done or said that has improved the quality of life for other people – or for animals, plants, the environment, or the universe as a whole. Include the little things as well as the big ones. Paying someone a compliment or playing music for others to enjoy go on the list as well as building hospitals and raising millions for charity.

Here's what to do:

(a) Think about yesterday. Make a list of everything you can remember doing that had a positive impact.

Now do the same for the past week.

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Now the past month.

Now the past year.

Now the whole of your life to date.



(b) Now review the lists you've just made – what patterns do you notice? These are clues to **the kind of positive impact you are naturally good at**. As I said in Lesson 20 (<http://lateralaction.com/most-influential-person/>), it's easier and more effective to build on your strengths than try to fix or your weaknesses.

So here's a suggestion:

Focus on the kind of positive impact that comes naturally to you. Just do it a little more consciously and a little more ambitiously day after day, week after week, year after year. That way, you'll be using your natural strengths to build up the kind of momentum that will have a big impact on the world.

To get you started, write down one or two extra things you could do:

- tomorrow
- next week
- next month
- in the year ahead

Finally, send yourself an email to arrive a year from now, asking yourself to review over this worksheet and see how much impact you are making. (Here's how to send the email: <http://joesgonesocial.com/2010/12/3-ways-to-send-yourself-a-message-in-the-future>)

And if you find that a worthwhile exercise, maybe you could send a similar email to arrive the following year...