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In my experience, the most challenging aspect of creativity is extending yourself to the most outer bounds of your imagination while at the same time grounding yourself in reality and rationality. After graduating from Emerson College and majoring in marketing and communications, I pursued a legal education specializing in Intellectual property and environmental law. I currently work in real estate development and management. No matter what opportunities and challenges life presented, whether professionally, personally or academically, I often applied the creative philosophies and exercises championed throughout the Creative Principles and Practice course.

Mind mapping is one of the useful tools that helps me exercise my creative muscles and also trains my brain to think “outside of the box.” It enables me to visualize and consider the different ways that I can express an idea or overcome an obstacle. The hardest part, though, is honing in on the objective while at the same time exercising extensive creative thought and reasoning. Mind mapping is a problem-solving tool that allows you to stretch your imagination and apply principles of actualization.

In the months leading up to writing the New York and New Jersey Bar exams, I withdrew myself from my friends and all the great distractions that New York City has to offer so that I could focus on studying. Aside from my family’s unwavering love, support and pep talks, the few breaks I took were to focus on

my artistic skills and cravings that helped me preserve my sense of self. I took breaks to write, paint and to practice piano on the keyboard conveniently located directly behind my swivel chair. At times it was a challenge for me to find ways to be creative in my everyday life and professional field, but what I learned from the Creative Principles and Practice class was the importance of taking the time to indulge my creative side and be inspired. These creative outlets were my release and allowed me to return to my work a more productive person.

Property management and real estate development present the constant challenge of exercising creativity within the confines of economics, practicality and a plethora of other factors. Solving problems is a constant and keeping a notebook

beside my bed helps me remember all the ideas I get when I'm unwinding from a busy day. It's amazing how some of the best and most creative approaches to problems come right before you are about to fall asleep!

Through course work, I learned that in order to tap into my imagination, I had to cultivate it. The class gave me the opportunity to explore the unlimited bounds of creativity. I was so inspired by the assignments that I never came to class with just one idea but instead I would present two or three. The class let my imagination run free, and the lessons allowed me to explore my creative capabilities, which is something I will always take with me and let influence the decisions and products I take to fruition.



Key Insights

1. Keep a notepad beside your bed to write down your thoughts and ideas.
2. Whatever industry you work in, apply creative principles and practices when solving problems.
3. Take the time to indulge your creative side.