

CQ Entry: Inventing

For successful synthesis to emerge, three associated levels of thinking must all occur at the same time in a dynamic, three component process which is a great deal like writing poetry or songs. All three levels operate concurrently and recursively (like the cat chasing its tail). The three levels of thinking are: Envisioning, Inventing, and Rearranging or (SCAMPERing).

Inventing

The middle level requires translation of possibilities into actualities. The imaginative play of the top level must be grounded in reality. What might actually work? What is a sensible version of that possibility?

This is the level at which innovation is born. The student concocts new solutions to problems or coins new ideas and general principles. The research may hatch a whole new action plan, fabricating and formulating initiatives to make a dream possible. Perhaps the thinking may advance to the development and testing of prototypes before engineering a final product. This can be done with physical things, but also with non-physical entities like social engineering, new waves of music, a new process for diagnosing a disease....

What changes in the Constitution would be necessary to ensure that we are a society where the needs of humans come first? How would you go about it? How would you eliminate fear from our culture?

At this level the student is working on the idea of “how to.” What would work, and what would it take to make it actually happen? What needs to be done? Where do you start? You should take into consideration the ideas and points of view you uncovered in your SCAMPERing assignment, and your Envisioning assignment.

1. On the left side of your notebook make a list of at least 10 Inventions you might create as a result of your study. You do not have to explain them, but list them with a title or label that suggests what it is.
2. On the right side of your notebook, in a CQ Entry, practice inventing by selecting one of the inventions from the right side entry and creating a process, movement, service, or product that would actualize your envisioning entry and ideas.

Your entry can be a written description of the process, an outline, a web / flow chart, a diagram, a sketch, etc. It must be done with integrity and demonstrate a concentrated effort in both content and presentation.

See Example on the Back

A Hypothetical Example (A Response Might Start Something Like This)

My CQ question asks, “What are the causes of stress in our lives that cause us to be so unhappy?” I envisioned a society that is designed to minimize stress in the lives of its citizens and to provide an environment that nurtures freedom of creativity and expression and the possibility of being fully human.

One of the first things that I envisioned that would be a characteristic of such a society is that the basic physiological and safety needs, that we studied with Maslow’s theory, would be guaranteed as human rights to all people in our society. It is one thing to envision this, and another to get it done. How can this become possible?

In order for everyone’s physiological needs to be met there would have to be some changes, adjustments, and even revolutionary innovations made in the structures of our economy, social institutions, constitutional environment, legal institutions, child rearing, and health care system.

One of the first innovations that would have to take place is to ensure full employment for every able citizen, not a just at minimum wage jobs that keep people below the poverty level and create a class of the working poor, but jobs that have futures and possibilities. The concept of social mobility must be recreated in the 21st century.

The original War on Poverty begun in the 60’s has been discredited in the conservative 80’s and 90’s because of its link with the concept of welfare, in particular, welfare to the poor. Let’s take the concept and turn it inside-out and direct welfare to the rich and powerful by giving dollar for dollar tax write-offs to corporations that employ and educate workers. If a worker is hired at \$35,000 per year, that corporation can write \$35,000 directly off its taxable income. Some refinements would be necessary to insure that unethical corporate executives didn’t just hire one friend at \$5,000,000 a year. Perhaps the write-off would only apply to the number of new hires at the average of \$ 35,000. The idea would be to put people to work, who would in turn pay taxes and become part of a work ethic culture that would be passed on to their children, etc. American productivity would increase even higher making the nation even more competitive in a global economy....

Now it is your turn. Invent a real application of your vision for your CQ question and elaborate on it.