Love’s Creative SPARKS! is asking students across the state to brainstorm ways they could make their community more creative. The students with ideas that are determined to be the most innovative will receive cash awards, the Creative SPARKS! Awards, that will serve as seed funds to implement their ideas. Classroom activities allowing students to use collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and communication to move from idea to implementation can be found here! If you come together as a community, a common interest, a community is created.

Focus: Collaboration

Materials Needed:
• Poster board (or other large paper medium)
• Markers
• Several magazines
• Scissors
• Glue

Overview:
For this activity, students will work in pairs. After a discussion of what a creative community means to them, they will use the materials to create a collage focusing on creative words and pictures representing their ideas.

Steps:
1. Get into pairs.
2. Before you start, have a discussion about what a creative community is to be. What makes a community creative, and what might mean in a community that is creative. Come up with ideas you both agree on, so that your poster represents collaboration between the two of you. Think about places you have traveled to or TV, What things compose a strong, creative community that encourages and welcomes the arts and new ideas and solutions?
3. Using all the materials that you have gathered, create an idea creative community in the booth. You find pictures and words in the magazines that speak to your original concept that you discussed. Now them in an art composition, use all of your space, think about where the viewer’s eye is led, and be creative and thoughtful with placement of your cutouts.

Focus: Critical Thinking

Materials Needed:
• Paper
• Colored pencils
• Computer (optional)

Overview:
Using your ideas, identify one specific element of your creative community that you would like to be environment and outline the process it may require if it were to be implemented.

Steps:
1. Take five minutes to look over the collage you and your partner made. Identify one specific element of it that you would love to see happen in your community.
2. Using this element as your guide and goal, create an outline with which you can present to your school’s administration. Do an outline with which you can present to your school’s administration.
3. Using your outline, create your poster-making paper. Include all of the details included below:
   - A timeline of steps that need to be taken for your creative community idea
   - A description of the project
   - A budget for the project
   - A description of the project
   - A list of materials

4. All projects have costs to them. What costs might your idea include? Be specific and create a budget breakdown based on the needs you identify.
5. List potential obstacles you may run into.
6. Conclude your outline by explaining in a brief summary how this would benefit a community.

Communicate how you would implement your plan.
To communicate creatively, use visually using oral, written, and nonverbal skills in a variety of forms. In this final lesson you will create a presentation to share your idea.

Focus: Creativity

Materials Needed:
• Camera (or paper for illustrations if a camera is not available)
• Printer and story template (optional)
• Computer (optional)

Overview:
Now that you have made an outline of your creative community project, brainstorm what your project resembles like if it were created. In this lesson, you’ll create a photo story that demonstrates and combines what your idea could be.

Steps:
1. Imagine your idea becomes a reality. Who will use it? Where will it be? What will it look like? What will people do differently? Why will it be successful?
2. Write a story using the outline. Write the story as if you are a character in the story and you are telling the story. Make sure the story has a beginning, middle, and end. Think about how each box would connect to the next and how the story will end. Write the story. Make sure you create a polished, professional story.
3. Using a computer or paper, create an outline—making sure it is clear, concise, and easy to read.
4. Create a computer or paper, create your outline—making sure it is clear, concise, and easy to read.
5. Using the outline, identify one specific element of your creative community that you would love to see happen in your community.
6. Conclude your outline by explaining in a brief summary how this would benefit a community.

Activity Focus: Communicate

Materials Needed:
• Computer
• PowerPoint
documentary video

Overview:
Let’s use your inspiration, project outlines, and photo/story to create a mock presentation for a potential community leader.

Steps:
1. Imagine you are given the opportunity to present your idea for a creative community to a leader in your community. To be successful, you need to create a polished, professional presentation. In order to do that, you need to think carefully about the message you want to communicate and the goal of the project.
2. Advertisements create jobs, or present a way to get in touch with the form of art you want to do. A poster or a sign, for example, could get the attention of the audience.
3. Your presentation should include the following:
   - A title page that gives the key points you will cover.
   - A description of the project
   - A description of the project
   - A description of the project
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Communicate how you would implement your plan.
To communicate creatively, use visually using oral, written, and nonverbal skills in a variety of forms. In this final lesson you will create a presentation to share your idea.

Focus: Critical Thinking

Materials Needed:
• Paper
• Colored pencils
• Computer (optional)

Overview:
Using your ideas, identify one specific element of your creative community that you would love to see happen in your community.

Steps:
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5. List potential obstacles you may run into.
6. Conclude your outline by explaining in a brief summary how this would benefit a community.

Focus: Collaboration

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6. Conclude your outline by explaining in a brief summary how this would benefit a community.
Creativity, defined as the “generation of ideas that have value,” is a basic human ability that we all possess. New, fresh, creative ideas are constantly needed to resolve some of the world’s most pressing issues. Through the Love’s Creative SPARKS! program, Creative Oklahoma is challenging students of all ages to start using their creative abilities now to offer their ideas for solutions to problems they see within their classroom, school or community environments. The Love’s Creative SPARKS! awards will grant cash prizes to the students who submit the most innovative ideas. Any funds received will be a call to action for the student and school to work together to make the idea a reality.

This year’s Love’s Creative SPARKS! theme is Oklahoma Creative Communities. Creative Oklahoma encourages the creative development of students throughout their lives, especially during their time in Oklahoma classrooms. Creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration are all important skills essential to compete in the 21st century. They are also vital to ensuring strong economic growth and quality of life for all Oklahoma communities.

To be considered for the Love’s Creative SPARKS! awards, students will need to submit an application on the NIE website. Entries can be in the form of digital images or written proposals. Students, this is your chance to use your creativity to make a difference!

STUDENT ENTRY FORM
Submit your entry on the Newspaper in Education website: nie.newsok.com
For more information email: info@stateofcreativity.com

Prizes

Grand Prize Winner (Any winner)
$1500 to the student’s school to implement the student’s idea and $1000 cash prize to the student(s) who submitted the best overall idea.

Two High School Awards (Grade 9-12)
$1000 to the student’s school to implement the student(s)’s idea and $250 cash prize to the student(s) who submitted the entry.

Two Middle School Awards (Grade 6-8)
$1000 to the student’s school to implement the student(s)’s idea and $250 cash prize to the student(s) who submitted the entry.

Two Elementary School Awards (Grade K-5)
$1000 to the student’s school to implement the student(s)’s idea and $250 cash prize to the student(s) who submitted the entry.

RULES AND REGULATIONS: All federal, state and local regulations apply. No purchase necessary. There are no prize or cash substitutions. Prizes are non-transferable. By participating in this promotion, entrants agree to be bound by the official rules and the decisions of the judges/contest officials. All decisions made by contest officials shall be deemed final. Employees of contest sponsors and their immediate families are ineligible to participate. This contest is void where prohibited by law. Acceptance of prizes constitutes permission to use the winner name(s), video(s), photograph(s) and likeness(es) for purposes of advertising and promotion on behalf of contest sponsors without compensation. All contest submissions become the property of Creative Oklahoma, Inc. and COI reserves the right to reuse them at their discretion and without compensation.