Creative and Critical Thinking Styles

For all who want to understand and improve thinking and learning abilities in themselves and others

Chua Yan Piaw
Creative and Critical Thinking Styles has three aims. The first is to help the readers know their own creative thinking and critical thinking styles, by answering the self-scoring Yampiw Creative Thinking and Critical Thinking Styles Test. The second aim of this book is to help readers understand the theories, models and research evidence of creative thinking and critical thinking studies. They also gain insight into how creative thinking and critical thinking abilities are measured. This book also provides suggestions on how to improve learning and thinking abilities by first removing the blockages of creative thinking and critical thinking before practising some relevant strategies which are recommended here.

Dr Chua Yan Piaw obtained his Bachelor of Science (Chemistry), Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Universiti Putra Malaysia. He is actively involved in creative thinking, critical thinking and brain hemisphericity research. His research papers have been presented at several international conferences such as the 2002 and 2004 International Seminar of Learning and Motivation (Penang), the 2002 International Learning Conference (Beijing) and the International Learning Conference (London).

Despite his science background, Dr Chua also excels in works of art which have inspired him to produce this book. A painter, cartoonist and calligrapher as well, he has exhibited his paintings and art works at a solo art exhibitions (2003 and 2004, Chin Woo Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur), published his cartoons in local newspapers (Thong Poo Daily News and Sin Chew Jit Poh) and has won gold medals at national level calligraphy contests.
Creative and Critical Thinking Styles

CHUA YAN PIAW

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Preface

Learning to know our creative thinking and critical thinking skills is one of the most significant activities of our life, for everything we do is affected by our thinking abilities. When we know the strengths and weaknesses of our thinking, we can understand more about every single action we take, and we can work more successfully in our daily life. When we recognise other people’s thinking styles by their actions, we become more understanding of why they think or act in certain ways, and we can communicate with them more easily and successfully.

This book has three central aims. The first is to help readers know their own creative thinking and critical thinking styles. By answering the self-scoring creative thinking and critical thinking styles test, readers will identify whether they have a creative thinking style, critical thinking style, or a balanced thinking style. Through the test, readers will understand the strengths and weaknesses of their thinking.

It is the purpose of this book to present not only an instrument for the measurement of brain style, but also other significant information regarding creative thinking and critical thinking styles that will be of value to the readers. Therefore, the second aim of this book is to help readers understand the theories, models, and research evidence of creative thinking and critical thinking studies, and how creative thinking and critical thinking abilities are measured. The third aim of this book is to help readers improve their learning and thinking abilities, by removing the blockages of creative thinking and critical thinking, and by practising some creative thinking and critical thinking strategies, as suggested in this book. If this book assists you to a more profound understanding and analysis of your creative thinking, and your critical thinking abilities help you to cope with the surrounding society, then it will have fulfilled its aims.

Chua Yan Piaw

*September, 2004*
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