

Appendix D

Action Items for Instructional Leaders

The following is a summary of the 12 action items presented in Chapter 6. You can use the following summary and reflection questions as a daily checklist. You can also use it with others to reflect on whether and how you and others are taking the kinds of creative actions necessary to continually improve your everyday teaching, learning, and leadership practices.



- Action Item 1: Keep Creativity in Perspective
 - What are you doing to help yourself and others know when and how to use their creative capacity?
- Action Item 2: Actively Debunk Myths About Creativity
 - What are you doing to actively debunk myths about creativity (e.g., “Creativity has no place in high-stakes and serious decisions.”) so that you and others can effectively use the principles of the SAIL framework to guide more creative teaching, learning, and leadership practices?
- Action Item 3: Help Remove Creative Barriers
 - What are you doing to help ensure that self-created barriers (e.g., fear of the unknown, risk aversion, rigidity of thinking) are not blocking your and others’ willingness to consider new possibilities and take necessary risks to try something new?
- Action Item 4: Approach Every Crisis as an Opportunity
 - What are you doing to help ensure that you and others view even the most challenging of situations as an opportunity for improvement?

- Action Item 5: Have the Courage to *Lean Into* Uncertainty
 - What are you doing to help establish a supportive environment so that you and others can approach the uncertainties you face with a sense of openness and possibility thinking?
- Action Item 6: Establish New Rules for Thought and Action
 - What are you doing to help identify and establish new ground rules for thought and action that might establish new organizational norms for possibility thinking and creative action?
- Action Item 7: Approach Leadership With an Unshakeable Sense of Possibility Thinking
 - What are you doing to make sure that you and others are not underestimating what you, your students, and your colleagues are capable of accomplishing by approaching even the most challenging of problems with a spirit of possibility thinking?
- Action Item 8: Take a Strengths-Based Approach to Evaluation
 - What are you doing to make sure that you and others use critiques as a way to identify and build on existing strengths and discover new possibilities for continually improving your own and others' teaching, learning, and leadership practices?
- Action Item 9: Take Creative Risks
 - What are you doing to make sure that you and others learn how to distinguish between sensible and reckless risks, take action in the form of small steps, learn from any wrong turns along the way, and quickly get back on track toward making progress at addressing the challenges and problems you face?
- Action Item 10: Decide When to Flow Like Water or Stand Like Mountain
 - What are you doing to make sure that you and others maintain a flexible approach to your decision making so that you recognize when it is time to try something new or when it is best to stay the course?
- Action Item 11: Cultivate an Environment Supportive of Creativity
 - What are you doing to make sure that you are cultivating an environment that helps people feel supported in taking the risks necessary for creative thought and action (rather than feeling controlled, manipulated, or micromanaged)?
- Action Item 12: Apply the SAIL Principles to Everyday Leadership and Life
 - What small steps are you taking to ensure that whenever you face an ill-defined problem that you take the time to “sit with it, explore it, prune it, and take action on it”? In short, what are you doing to help reclaim your own creativity in your approach to everyday challenges of instructional leadership and life?