• Are you imaginative?
• If you are, how would you describe your imagination?
• How often do you use your imagination?
• When was the last time you used your imagination?
• What stirs your imagination?

unrecognized, undervalued, if not outright denied
but an innate ability, which to a large extent determines the reality of our lives

“We tend to consider imagination too lightly, forgetting that the life we make, for ourselves individually and for the world as a whole, is shaped and limited only by the perimeters of our imagination.”

Thomas Moore,
The Re-enchantment of Everyday Life
"Imagination is more important than knowledge, for knowledge is limited while imagination embraces the entire world."
Albert Einstein

I am going to say a word.
No matter how tempted you are, don’t form a picture in your mind!
The word is …
Hal Urban
Positive Words, Powerful Results

What our imagination does
• Difficult to define
  < Lat imago, a copy or likeness
  " the act or power of forming a mental image of something"
• Better to describe

The Four Key Aspects of Imagination
Tom Wujec, Return on Imagination
• Representation: Seeing with the Mind’s Eye
• Connection: Compare and Contrast
• Emotion: Responding to the Mind’s Theater
• Interpretation: Deriving Understanding and Meaning

Re-discovering our imaginations
1. What our imagination does
2. What our imagination can do for us
3. What we can do for our imagination

What our imagination does
The mind is constantly creating & recreating
“we can’t not use our imagination [there is a] constant stream of images and words that create a personal sense of the world. We imagine all day and all night ... We actively use our imagination to make sense of our lives…”
Tom Wujec
What our imagination does

- Positive imaginations:
  - dreaming
  - hoping
  - planning
  - assuming
  - plotting
  - misinterpreting
  - creating

- Negative imaginations:
  - remembering
  - perceiving
  - resenting
  - obsessing
  - worrying

What our imagination can do for us

- Bridge to the Future
- Window of Discovery
- Dream Maker

The imaginative exploration of ourselves and our relationship to the world

Imagination is the creative task of making symbols, joining things together in such a way that they throw new light on each other and on everything around them. The imagination is a discovering faculty...

Thomas Merton
The Celtic Way of Prayer

Who am I?
- What colour am I?
- What piece of clothing?
- What flavour of ice cream?
- What time of day?
- What animal?
What our imagination can do for us

The ability to create images of the future and to be energized by possibilities.

Bridge to the Future

Window of Discovery

Dream Maker

“Your imagination is your preview of life's coming attractions.”

Albert Einstein

“It is only through imagination that men become aware of what the world might be.”

Bertrand Russell

The Possible's slow fuse is lit by the Imagination.

Emily Dickinson

Art of Possibilities

Living with the Whirlwind

Living with Possibilities

Living with the Whirlwind

Living with Possibilities
No Imagination!  
No Faith!  
No Hope!

Hope-Filled Engagement

“Seeing all possibilities, seeing all that can be done, and how it can be done, marks the power of imagination.”
Greater Horizons Inc

What our imagination can do for us

Bridge to the Future

“Your imagination stands as your own personal laboratory. Here you can rehearse the possibilities, map out plans, and visualize overcoming obstacles. Imagination turns possibilities into reality.”
Greater Horizons Inc

Dream Maker

“our imagination can be actively used as a tool to create a detailed blueprint of a future possibility

The key thing about a future vision is ‘what it does’ to you now, it gives you meaning and puts you in motion.”

The CareerPath Adventure

© Ergon Communications, 2011
What we can do for our imagination

Create an environment for a healthy imagination
- Permission
- Time
- The beginner’s mind
- Play
- Break out of the box
- Stimulus
- Multiple perspectives

Career Possibilities

Are you the only one who …?
Who else …?

The Australian National University

Imagination & Career Seminar
hosted by the ANU Career Development Branch

Gray Poehnell
Canberra, June 22, 2011