

Personal Creative Needs Assessment

A workbook for understanding where you are, where you want to go, and what you need next.

Before you diagnose a project, collaborator, or client need, learn to diagnose your own.

- 01 Current State
- 02 Desired Future State
- 03 Gap
- 04 Priorities
- 05 Resources
- 06 Strategy
- Closing: Purpose & Fit (Ikigai)

NAME

DATE

Current State

Start with what is true now.

Use facts, examples, and evidence. This is not about proving that you already have everything figured out.

What am I making now? Songs, recordings, productions, performances, visual work, film, theatre, or other projects. 	What can I reliably do now? Skills, judgment, creative habits, technical abilities, communication, or things others already ask me to help with.
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What gives me energy? Work that makes you curious, alert, absorbed, or willing to keep solving. 	What drains me? Work, conditions, habits, or situations that reduce the quality of your attention.
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Area	What is true now?	Evidence / example
Time & school workload		
Creative skills		
Production / engineering skills		
Tools & access		
Portfolio / proof		
Network / collaborators		

Desired Future State

Choose a direction, not a permanent identity.

By the end of this course...

What would you like to be able to make, understand, finish, communicate, or contribute that you cannot do as well today?

Twelve months from now...

What kind of creative work, skill level, portfolio, collaborators, opportunities, or responsibilities would you like to have?

I want more of...	I want less of...

What would a good creative week look like?

Think about school, practice, writing, production, collaboration, rest, and time to explore.

What Success Means to Me

Success can mean more than one thing. Choose the measures that actually matter to your growth right now.

What success can mean	My version
Original voice / artistic growth	
Technical capability	
Collaboration	
Portfolio / completed work	
Leadership / responsibility	
Learning / experimentation	
Balance / sustainability	
Future opportunities	

The two success markers I care about most

Why do these matter during this pilot?

Gap

Name the distance between now and next.

Where do my current and desired states diverge?

Write the differences plainly. The gap is information, not a verdict.

Possible gap	Is it real for me?	What evidence do I have?
Skill or knowledge		
Portfolio / proof		
Confidence / communication		
Collaboration / network		
Tools / access		
Workflow / organization		
Time / consistency		
Clarity / direction		

What is already stronger than I think?

Name assets, experience, relationships, or evidence you can use now.

Root cause, not symptom

Keep asking why until the gap becomes something you can act on.

If nothing changes...

What opportunity, growth, or creative outcome might I miss?

Priorities

Choose what matters first.

A priority is not a list of everything you care about. It is a decision about sequence.

Priority area	Rank 1-8	Why now?	Tradeoff / constraint
Original voice			
Songwriting craft			
Production / engineering			
Collaboration			
Portfolio / completion			
Leadership / responsibility			
Learning / adaptability			
Balance / wellbeing			

My non-negotiables

What needs to be protected so the work remains healthy and worthwhile?

The tradeoff I am willing to make

What will I postpone, simplify, or say no to so the top priority can win?

The one priority that must win during this pilot

If it works, what will be observably different by the end of this course?

Resources

Map what you have, what you need, and who can help.

Resource area	I have	I need	Next source / ask
Creative skills			
Production / engineering			
Tools / space / access			
Time / consistency			
Portfolio / proof			
Peers / collaborators			
Teachers / mentors			
Information / learning resources			

What can I learn or own myself?

Name the next skill, system, habit, or decision you can take responsibility for.

What responsibly requires another expert?

A teacher, producer, engineer, director, attorney, accountant, specialist, or collaborator.

NETWORK PRINCIPLE

Needing another person is not failure. Professionals become stronger by knowing who knows what they do not.

Strategy

Turn the assessment into a next move.

Desired result

What outcome would show that your top priority is moving?

Who benefits?

You, a collaborator, a song, a production, an audience, another UAA department, or a future opportunity?

What value will I create?

Complete: I can help _____ do / experience / achieve _____ by _____.

#	Move	Owner	By when	Evidence
1				
2				
3				

How will I measure success?

Name evidence, not just a feeling.

What conversation comes next?

Who needs to hear the plan, approve it, join it, or help you test it?

My course commitment

Write a commitment you are willing to be held to. Add a review date and someone who can ask how it is going.

Purpose & Fit

Use Ikigai as a question, not a promise that one perfect answer exists.

For this class, Ikigai is a way to examine where energy, competence, service, and future sustainability may overlap. You do not need to decide your career now.

Area	Questions for me
What I love	What work, questions, sounds, people, or problems do I return to without being pushed?
What I can do well	What can I already do - or realistically learn - at a level other people can use?
What people / projects need	Whose goal, story, problem, performance, or future can I serve in a meaningful way?
What could sustain me over time	What could remain useful, valuable, employable, or worth developing even as tools and platforms change?

Where do these areas meet?

What would you keep doing if the job title, platform, DAW, or format changed?

From Purpose to Experiment

Turn purpose into something you can test.

Discovery question	My answer
Current position - Where am I starting from, in facts?	
Desired future - What am I deliberately trying next?	
Why - Why does this matter to me or others?	
Measurement - How will I recognize progress?	
Obstacles - What could prevent it?	
People - Who needs to participate, decide, teach, or be served?	
Worth - What makes this worth doing now?	
Fit - What part of the life or creative direction I want does this support?	

My purpose / fit statement

I am developing _____ for / with _____ so that _____ because _____.

This fits the direction I want by _____.

My learning experiment	Evidence I will look for	Review date	Keep / change / stop

CLOSING PRINCIPLE

Be on the hook. Do not cheat yourself. You are not choosing your entire future - you are choosing the next honest experiment.