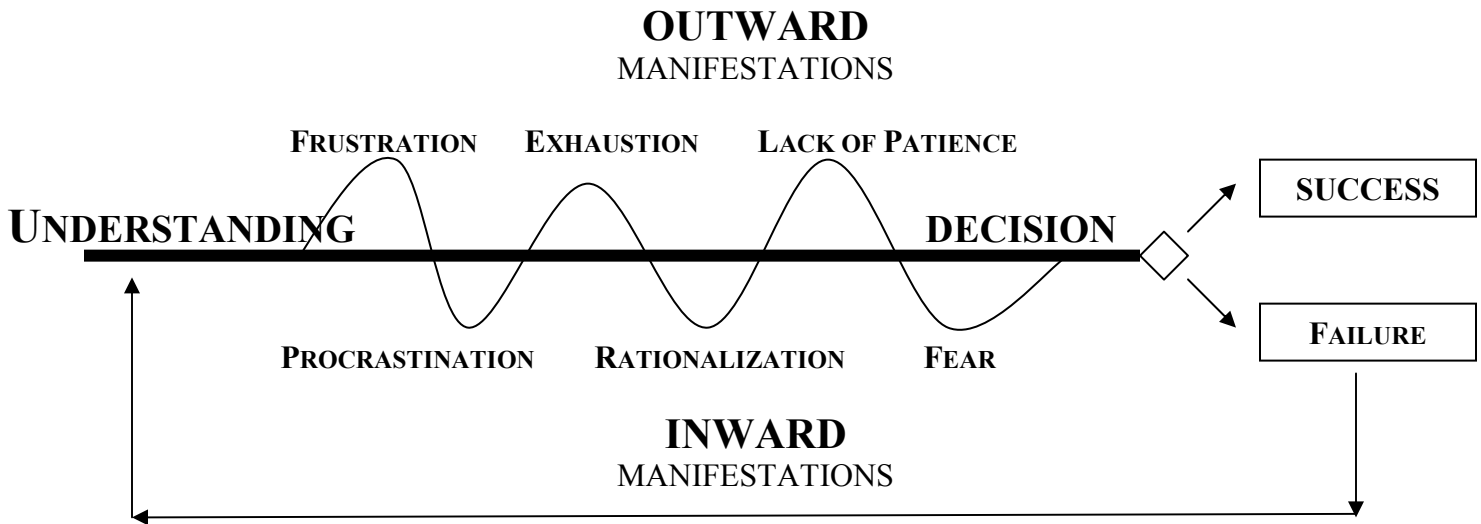


The Creative Continuum

By Thom Halls



1. **Understanding – (learning)** To maintain a creative edge you must constantly continue to seek understanding. This can be curiosity or just a deep seeded need to keep on learning. Whatever it must be a continuum.
2. **Frustration** – One of the manifestations is when we get frustrated with our learning process. Usually that comes from our understanding flow being disrupted. This can be unanswered questions, loss of interest or confusion about a process. The question is where do I find the answers?
3. **Procrastination** – One of the disastrous ways we deal with the frustration is we procrastinate. We put off what we don't want to confront. Delayed or ignored need for a better understanding of an issue or problem is detrimental to the creative process...
4. **Exhaustion** – Unfortunately in any creative endeavor the deadline always approaches and if we have procrastinated, then we quickly must make up lost ground and we quickly grow exhausted. Now we have not done our best.
5. **Rationalization** – When confronted with the facts that we have not done our best we rationalize to the point that it is not really our fault, when in actuality it is. We rationalize that we did the best we could under the conditions...the question is did we create those conditions by not having control of other factors of the creative continuum?
6. **Lack of Patience** – As we rationalize our actions we tend to find that guilt now enters the picture as we did not do what we know in our hearts we should have regarding creativity. We begin to beat up on ourselves and when you lack patience in yourself, you then undermine your confidence.
7. **FEAR (Afraid of the unknown)** – lastly we face fear. If the fear is strong enough then we are paralyzed to the point of none productivity. If allowed to continue will stop the creative process in its tracks.
8. **Decision time** – Ultimately in the creative process you have a decision to make. Were you successful or a failure. Failure in creativity is not a negative thing, but something you can build on. While you may have not lived up to expectations, you certainly now have more understanding of the issue and can face the issue again with renewed vigor.