


Amabile calls it the intrinsic motivation principle of creativity, which holds, in part: “Intrinsic motivation is conducive to creativity; controlling extrinsic motivation is detrimental to creativity.”¹¹ In other words, the central tenets of Motivation 2.0 may actually impair performance of the heuristic, right-brain work on which modern economies depend.


Twain extracts a key motivational principle, namely “that Work consists of whatever a body is OBLIGED to do, and that Play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do.”

in 1999 Deci and two colleagues reanalyzed nearly three decades of studies on the subject to confirm the findings. “Careful consideration of reward effects reported in 128 experiments lead to the conclusion that tangible rewards tend to have a substantially negative effect on intrinsic motivation,” they determined. “When institutions—families, schools, businesses, and athletic teams, for example—focus on the short-term and opt for controlling people’s behavior,” they do considerable long-term damage.³

Reporting the results for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the researchers wrote, “In eight of the nine tasks we examined across the three experiments, higher incentives led to worse performance.”⁵

 External rewards can actively harm performance

Rewards, by their very nature, narrow our focus. That's helpful when there's a clear path to a solution. They help us stare ahead and race faster. But "if-then" motivators are terrible for challenges like the candle problem. As this experiment shows, the rewards narrowed people's focus and blinkered the wide view that might have allowed them to see new uses for old objects.

 I wonder if there's something here to the frame of reference you start a task with, how you prime yourself. Like having 2 visions depending on what kind of task you're doing. If you need to do something big and creative, focus on the grand vision of the work, how you want to show up in the world with your work. But, if you need to show up doing more pre-defined, systematic, boring work, that you have a vision for extrinsic rewards, what things you want to accomplish, buy, be seen as, etc. Maybe you could even pre-define it in a task manager, including links to those vision documents

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 57

2024-05-26 16:27

“The less evidence of extrinsic motivation during art school, the more success in professional art both several years after graduation and nearly twenty years later.”

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 58

2024-05-26 16:28

“Those artists who pursued their painting and sculpture more for the pleasure of the activity itself than for extrinsic rewards have produced art that has been socially recognized as superior,” the study said. “It is those who are least motivated to pursue extrinsic rewards who eventually receive them.” 9

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 58

2024-05-26 16:29

Amabile and others have found that extrinsic rewards can be effective for algorithmic tasks—those that depend on following an existing formula to its logical conclusion. But for more right-brain undertakings—those that demand flexible problem-solving, inventiveness, or conceptual understanding—contingent rewards can be dangerous.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 62

2024-05-26 16:50

That’s one reason they can be effective; they concentrate the mind. But as we’ve seen, a narrowed focus exacts a cost. For complex or conceptual tasks, offering a reward can blinker the wide-ranging thinking necessary to come up with an innovative solution.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 64

2024-05-26 16:51


When the reward is the activity itself—deepening learning, delighting customers, doing one’s best—there are no shortcuts. The only route to the destination is the high road. In some sense, it’s impossible to act unethically because the person who’s

disadvantaged isn't a competitor but yourself.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 66


2024-05-26 16:59

According to these scholars, cash rewards and shiny trophies can provide a delicious jolt of pleasure at first, but the feeling soon dissipates—and to keep it alive, the recipient requires ever larger and more frequent doses.

 I wonder if you want to actively avoid engaging your dopamine system here. Obviously there's going to be some natural activation - ex. getting a new client, but it almost sounds like we should avoid engaging the dopamine circuitry.

Also, is there a term for needing more and more every time you engage with dopamine? Feel like Dr. K kind of talked about it with Ludwig

fixating on an immediate reward can damage performance over time.

 So what do we want to focus on instead? Maybe more about Mastery, what skills we want to build, who we want to be. Ex, I want to be the kind of person who rises up to challenges like this and be someone who can be effective, efficient, etc. Defining your values, the person you want to be, and how the task in front of you will push you towards that

CARROTS AND STICKS: The Seven Deadly Flaws
1. They can extinguish intrinsic motivation.
2. They can diminish performance.
3. They can crush creativity.
4. They can crowd out good behavior.
5. They can encourage cheating, shortcuts, and unethical behavior.
6. They can become addictive.
7. They can foster short-term thinking.

For routine tasks, which aren't very interesting and don't demand much creative thinking, rewards can provide a small motivational booster shot without the harmful side effects. In some ways, that's just common sense. As Edward Deci, Richard Ryan, and Richard Koestner explain, "Rewards do not undermine people's intrinsic motivation for dull tasks because there is little or no intrinsic motivation to be undermined."¹ Likewise, when Dan Ariely and his colleagues conducted their Madurai, India, performance study with a group of MIT students, they found that when the task called for "even rudimentary cognitive skill," a larger reward "led to poorer performance." But "as long as the task involved only mechanical skill, bonuses worked as they would be expected: the higher the pay, the better the performance."²

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 78

2024-05-26 19:08

Amabile also discovered that when the artists considered their commissions "enabling"—that is, "the commission enabled the artist to do something interesting or exciting"³—the creativity ranking of what they produced shot back up. The same was true for commissions the artists felt provided them with useful information and feedback about their ability.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 80

2024-05-26 19:12

As Deci and his colleagues explain, "If tangible rewards are given unexpectedly to people after they have finished a task, the rewards are less likely to be experienced as the reason for doing the task and are thus less likely to be detrimental to intrinsic motivation."⁴ Likewise, Amabile has found in some studies "that the highest levels of creativity were produced by subjects who received a reward as a kind of a bonus."⁵

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 84

2024-05-26 21:35

. SDT, by contrast, begins with a notion of universal human needs. It argues that we have three innate psychological needs—competence, autonomy, and relatedness. When those needs are satisfied, we're motivated, productive, and happy.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 962024-06-02 09:41

The Three Elements

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 972024-06-02 09:40

Autonomy

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 1022024-06-02 09:03

“The ultimate freedom for creative groups is the freedom to experiment with new ideas. Some skeptics insist that innovation is expensive. In the long run, innovation is cheap. Mediocrity is expensive—and autonomy can be the antidote.” TOM KELLEY

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 1062024-05-27 10:33

Type I behavior emerges when people have autonomy over the four T’s: their task, their time, their technique, and their team.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 1072024-06-02 09:06

Task

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 1112024-06-02 09:07

Time

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 1152024-06-02 09:09

Without sovereignty over our time, it’s nearly impossible to have autonomy over our

lives.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 115

2024-06-02 09:09

Technique

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 118

2024-06-02 09:14

Team

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 119


2024-05-27 11:02

“Autonomy over what we do is most important. The biggest difference between working for other studios and running my own has been the fact that I can choose what job we take on and what product, service, or institution we promote. This I find to be the single most important question: When I’m close to the content, research becomes easy, meetings become interesting (people who produce interesting products or services are mostly interesting themselves), and I don’t have to be involved in false advertising.” STEFAN SAGMEISTER Designer



Thinking about creating a post about about why I'm choosing to do freelance / agency work, because of this exact autonomy problem, being able to choose the work itself and the clients I want to take on

hundred years and how they worked—people like Pablo Picasso, Georgia O’Keeffe, and Jackson Pollock. Unlike for the rest of us, Motivation 2.0 was never their operating system. Nobody told them: You must paint this sort of picture. You must begin painting precisely at eight-thirty A.M. You must paint with the people we select to work with you. And you must paint this way. The very idea is ludicrous.

 Some of the people are mentioned in Slow Productivity, I wonder if there are any connections I can make? Or like the one main guy he didn't have deadlines but just focused on being able to pay your bills

Mastery

The highest, most satisfying experiences in people’s lives were when they were in flow. And this previously unacknowledged mental state, which seemed so inscrutable and transcendent, was actually fairly easy to unpack. In flow, goals are clear. You have to reach the top of the mountain, hit the ball across the net, or mold the clay j

ustright. Feedback is immediate. The mountaintop gets closer or farther, the ball sails in or out of bounds, the pot you're throwing comes out smooth or uneven. Most important, in flow, the relationship between what a person had to do and what he could do was perfect. The challenge wasn't too easy. Nor was it too difficult. It was a notch or two beyond his current abilities, which stretched the body and mind in a way that made the effort itself the most delicious reward. That balance produced a degree of focus and satisfaction that easily surpassed other, more quotidian, experiences.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 135 2024-05-27 12:01

One source of frustration in the workplace is the frequent mismatch between what people must do and what people can do. When what they must do exceeds their capabilities, the result is anxiety. When what they must do falls short of their capabilities, the result is boredom.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 136 2024-05-27 12:09

At some members of the cleaning staff at hospitals, instead of doing the minimum the job required, took on new tasks—from chatting with patients to helping make nurses' jobs go more smoothly. Adding these more absorbing challenges increased these cleaners' satisfaction and boosted their own views of their skills. By reframing aspects of their duties, they helped make work more playful and more fully their own. "Even in low-autonomy jobs," Wrzesniewski and Dutton write, "employees can create new domains for mastery."⁷

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 137 2024-06-01 16:41


THE THREE LAWS OF MASTERY

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 137 2024-06-01 16:41

Mastery Is a Mindset

“Figure out for yourself what you want to be really good at, know that you’ll never really satisfy yourself that you’ve made it, and accept that that’s okay.” ROBERT B. REICH
Former U.S. Secretary of Labor

consider goals. Dweck says they come in two varieties—performance goals and learning goals. Getting an A in French class is a performance goal. Being able to speak French is a learning goal. “Both goals are entirely normal and pretty much universal,” Dweck says, “and both can fuel achievement.”⁸ But only one leads to mastery. In several studies, Dweck found that giving children a performance goal (say, getting a high mark on a test) was effective for relatively straightforward problems but often inhibited children’s ability to apply the concepts to new situations. For example, in one study, Dweck and a colleague asked junior high students to learn a set of scientific principles, giving half of the students a performance goal and half a learning goal. After both groups demonstrated they had grasped the material, researchers asked the students to apply their knowledge to a new set of problems, related but not identical to what they’d just studied. Students with learning goals scored significantly higher on these novel challenges. They also worked longer and tried more solutions.

 On the types of goals you should be setting. Not to hit a certain mark (ex. get X number of newsletter subscribers) but rather focus on an ability outcome, with a learning goal

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 141

2024-06-01 16:41

Mastery Is a Pain

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 141

2024-06-01 16:41

mundane, tedious parts. Then you will always be happy.” WILL SHORTZ

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 143

2024-06-01 16:38

If people are conscious of what puts them in flow, they’ll have a clearer idea of what they should devote the time and dedication to master.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 143

2024-06-01 16:38

mastery often involves working and working and showing little improvement, perhaps with a few moments of flow pulling you along, then making a little progress, and then working and working on that new, slightly higher plateau again. It’s grueling, to be sure. But that’s not the problem; that’s the solution.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 143

2024-06-01 16:38

“Effort is one of the things that gives meaning to life. Effort means you care about something, that something is important to you and you are willing to work for it. It would be an impoverished existence if you were not willing to value things and commit yourself to working toward them.”

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 143

2024-06-01 16:41

“Being a professional,” Julius Erving once said, “is doing the things you love to do, on the days you don’t feel like doing them.”¹⁶

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 143


2024-06-01 16:41

Mastery Is an Asymptote

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 144

2024-06-01 16:51

For Cézanne, one critic wrote, the ultimate synthesis of a design was never revealed in a flash; rather he approached it with infinite precautions, stalking it, as it were, now from one point of view, now from another. . . . For him the synthesis was an asymptote toward which he was forever approaching without ever quite reaching it.¹ This is the nature of mastery: Mastery is an asymptote. You can approach it. You can home in on it. You can get really, really, really close to it. But like Cézanne, you can never touch it.

 So to become a master at something can't be the goal, rather "pursuing mastery" is the full goal itself. There is no finish line to have become a master, it must be a daily striving, and you have to be okay with that

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 145

2024-06-01 16:52

reach for something you can never fully attain? But it's also a source of allure. Why

not reach for it? The joy is in the pursuit more than the realization. In the end, mastery attracts precisely because mastery eludes.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 147


2024-06-01 16:58

And one of Csikszentmihalyi's more surprising findings is that people are much more likely to reach that flow state at work than in leisure. Work can often have the structure of other autotelic experiences: clear goals, immediate feedback, challenges well matched to our abilities. And when it does, we don't just enjoy it more, we do it better. That's why it's so odd that organizations tolerate work environments that deprive large numbers of people of these experiences. By offering a few more Goldilocks tasks, by looking for ways to unleash the positive side of the Sawyer Effect, organizations can help their own cause and enrich people's lives. Csikszentmihalyi grasped this essential reality more than thirty years ago, when he wrote, "There is no reason to believe any longer that only irrelevant 'play' can be enjoyed, while the serious business of life must be borne as an burdensome cross. Once we realize that the boundaries between work and play are artificial, we can take matters in hand and begin the difficult task of making life more livable."¹⁹

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 148

2024-06-01 17:02

Over lunch, Csikszentmihalyi and I talked about children. A little kid's life bursts with autotelic experiences. Children careen from one flow moment to another, animated by a sense of joy, equipped with a mindset of possibility, and working with the dedication of a West Point cadet. They use their brains and their bodies to probe and draw feedback from the environment in an endless pursuit of mastery. Then—at some point in their lives—they don't. What happens? "You start to get ashamed that what you're doing is childish," Csikszentmihalyi explained.

 Thinking about our own ego, or the non-present, pulls us out of flow. What else? Attachment? Societal expectations?

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 149

2024-06-02 09:40

Purpose

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 151

2024-06-02 09:48


The most deeply motivated people—not to mention those who are most productive and satisfied—hitch their desires to a cause larger than themselves.

 Competing interests

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 153

2024-06-02 10:26

“In a curious way, age is simpler than youth, for it has so many fewer options.” STANLEY KUNITZ

 Analysis Paralysis of youth

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 162

2024-06-02 11:06

The people who'd had purpose goals and felt they were attaining them reported hi

gher levels of satisfaction and subjective well-being than when they were in college, and quite low levels of anxiety and depression. That’s probably no surprise. They’d set a personally meaningful goal and felt they were reaching it. In that situation, most of us would likely feel pretty good, too. But the results for people with profit goals were more complicated. Those who said they were attaining their goals—accumulating wealth, winning acclaim—reported levels of satisfaction, self-esteem, and positive affect no higher than when they were students. In other words, they’d reached their goals, but it didn’t make them any happier. What’s more, graduates with profit goals showed increases in anxiety, depression, and other negative indicators—again, even though they were attaining their goals.

 See: The Path Taken by Deci

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 162 2024-06-02 11:08

“One cannot lead a life that is truly excellent without feeling that one belongs to something greater and more permanent than oneself.” MIHALY CSIKSZENTMIHALYI

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 167 2024-06-02 13:46

Part Three The Type I Toolkit

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 170 2024-06-02 13:46

Type I for Individuals: Nine Strategies for Awakening Your Motivation

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 170 2024-06-02 13:48

GIVE YOURSELF A“FLOW TEST”

Set a reminder on your computer or mobile phone to go off at forty random times in a week. Each time your device beeps, write down what you’re doing, how you’re feeling, and whether you’re in “flow.”

look at the patterns, and consider the following questions:• Which moments produced feelings of “flow”? Where were you? What were you working on? Who were you with?• Are certain times of day more flow-friendly than others? How could you restructure your day based on your findings?• How might you increase the number of optimal experiences and reduce the moments when you felt disengaged or distracted?• If you’re having doubts about your job or career, what does this exercise tell you about your true source of intrinsic motivation?

FIRST, ASK A BIG QUESTION . . .

“A great man,” she told him, “is one sentence.” Abraham Lincoln’s sentence was: “He preserved the union and freed the slaves.” Franklin Roosevelt’s was: “He lifted us out of a great depression and helped us win a world war.” Luce feared that Kennedy’s attention was so splintered among different priorities that his sentence risked becoming a muddled paragraph.

One way to orient your life toward greater purpose is to think about your sentence. Maybe it’s: “He raised four kids who became happy and healthy adults.” Or “She invented a device that made people’s lives easier.” Or “He cared for every person who walked into his office regardless of whether that person could pay.” Or “She taught

two generations of children how to read.”As you contemplate your purpose, begin with the big question: What’s your sentence?

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 172 2024-06-02 13:59

... THEN KEEP ASKING A SMALL QUESTION

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 172 2024-06-02 14:00

The big question is necessary, but not sufficient. That’s where the small question comes in. Real achievement doesn’t happen overnight. As anyone who’s trained for a marathon, learned a new language, or run a successful division can attest, you spend a lot more time grinding through tough tasks than you do basking in applause.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 172 2024-06-02 14:00

At the end of each day, ask yourself whether you were better today than you were yesterday. Did you do more? Did you do it well? Or to get specific, did you learn your ten vocabulary words, make your eight sales calls, eat your five servings of fruits and vegetables, write your four pages? You don’t have to be flawless each day. Instead, look for small measures of improvement such as how long you practiced your saxophone or whether you held off on checking e-mail until you finished that report you needed to write. Reminding yourself that you don’t need to be a master by day 3 is the best way of ensuring you will be one by day 3,000. So before you go to sleep each night, ask yourself the small question: Was I better today than yesterday?

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 173 2024-06-02 14:02

TAKE A SAGMEISTER

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 173 2024-06-02 14:03

every seven years, Sagmeister closes his graphic design shop, tells his clients he won't be back for a year, and goes off on a 365-day sabbatical. He uses the time to travel, to live places he's never been, and to experiment with new projects.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 174 2024-06-02 14:03

GIVE YOURSELF A PERFORMANCE REVIEW

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 174 2024-06-02 14:04

Figure out your goals—mostly learning goals, but also a few performance goals—and then every month, call yourself to your office and give yourself an appraisal. How are you faring? Where are you falling short? What tools, information, or support might you need to do better?

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 174 2024-06-02 14:04

Some other hints:• Set both smaller and larger goals so that when it comes time to evaluate yourself you've already accomplished some whole tasks. • Make sure you understand how every aspect of your work relates to your larger purpose. • Be brutally honest. This exercise is aimed at helping you improve performance and achieve mastery—so if you rationalize failures or gloss over your mistakes instead of learning from them, you're wasting your time. And if doing this solo isn't your thing, gather a small group of colleagues for regular peer-based do-it-yourself performance reviews. If your comrades really care, they'll tell you the truth and hold you accountable. One last question for bosses: Why in God's name are you not encouraging all your employees to do this?

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 175 2024-06-02 14:09

GET UNSTUCK BY GOING OBLIQUE

If you're working on a project and find yourself stymied, pull an Oblique card from the deck. These brain bombs are a great way to keep your mind open despite constraints you can't control. You can buy the deck at www.enoshop.co.uk/ or follow one of the Twitter accounts inspired by the strategies, such as: http://twitter.com/oblique_chirps.

MOVE FIVE STEPS CLOSER TO MASTERY

Deliberate practice isn't running a few miles each day or banging on the piano for twenty minutes each morning. It's much more purposeful, focused, and, yes, painful. Follow these steps—over and over again for a decade—and you just might become a master:

Remember that deliberate practice has one objective: to improve performance. "People who play tennis once a week for years don't get any better if they do the same thing each time," Ericsson has said. "Deliberate practice is about changing your performance, setting new goals and straining yourself to reach a bit higher each time."• Repeat, repeat, repeat. Repetition matters. Basketball greats don't shoot ten free throws at the end of team practice; they shoot five hundred. • Seek constant, critical feedback. If you don't know how you're doing, you won't know what to improve. • Focus ruthlessly on where you need help. While many of us work on what we're already good at, says Ericsson, "those who get better work on their weaknesses."• Prepare for the process to be mentally and physically exhausting. That's why so few people commit to it, but that's why it works.

TAKE A PAGE FROM WEBBER AND A CARD FROM YOUR POCKET

magazine cofounder Alan Webber offers a smart and simple exercise for assessing whether you’re on the path to autonomy, mastery, and purpose. Get a few blank three-by-five-inch cards. On one of the cards, write your answer to this question: “What gets you up in the morning?” Now, on the other side of the card, write your answer to another question: “What keeps you up at night?” Pare each response to a single sentence. And if you don’t like an answer, toss the card and try again until you’ve crafted something you can live with. Then read what you’ve produced. If both answers give you a sense of meaning and direction, “Congratulations!”

CREATE YOUR OWN MOTIVATIONAL POSTER

Good Work: When Excellence and Ethics Meet BY HOWARD GARDNER, MIHALY CSIKSZENTMIHALYI, AND WILLIAM DAMON

Drucker wrote many books, and many have been written about him, but a great starting place is The Daily Drucker, a small gem that provides 366 insights and “action points” for putting his ideas into practice. On the topic of self-management, read Drucker’s 2005 Harvard Business Review article, “Managing Oneself.” For more information and access to digital archives of his writing, check out www.druckerinstitute.com.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 253

2024-05-24 07:00

Edward L. Deci, "Intrinsic Motivation, Extrinsic Reinforcement, and Inequity," Journal of Personality and Social Psychology 22 (1972): 119-20.

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● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 256

2024-05-26 15:18

7.3 Edward L. Deci, Richard M. Ryan, and Richard Koestner, "A Meta-Analytic Review of Experiments Examining the Effects of Extrinsic Rewards on Intrinsic Motivation," Psychological Bulletin 125, no. 6 (1999): 659.

● <Drive - Daniel Pink> Page: 268

2024-06-02 11:05

14 Christopher P. Niemiec, Richard M. Ryan, and Edward L. Deci, "The Path Taken: Consequences of Attaining Intrinsic and Extrinsic Aspirations," Journal of Research in Personality 43 (2009): 291-306.
