

25 Quotes to Jump-Start Your Innovative Mindset



Innovation does not require some exotic new technology by rather it requires an innovative culture. Today, firms need more radical and game-changing inspiration to be able to meet the challenges that we are all facing. We need new ideas. We need progress. We *need* positive change. Here is a collection of some of my favorite quotes on innovation to inspire *your* next move forward. When I need an added dose of inspiration or advice, I often turn to these insightful words of wisdom for an added touch of motivation.

- Innovation—any new idea—by definition will not be accepted at first. It takes repeated attempts, endless demonstrations, monotonous rehearsals before innovation can be accepted and internalized by an organization. This requires courageous patience. (Warren Bennis)
- New ideas pass through three periods: 1) It can't be done; 2) It probably can be done, but it's not worth doing; 3) I knew it was a good idea all along! (Arthur C. Clarke)
- The world is changing very fast. Big will not beat small anymore. It will be the fast beating the slow. (Rupert Murdoch).
- Never innovate to compete, innovate to change the rules of the game. (David O. Adefife)
- It's not about breaking the rules. It is about abandoning the concept of rules altogether. (Paul Lemberg)
- Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. (Margaret Mead)
- Creativity is thinking up new things. Innovation is doing new things. (Theodore Levitt)
- Innovation is seeing what everyone has seen and thinking what nobody has thought. (Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi)

- Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow. (William Pollard)
- The only thing all successful people have in common is that they're successful, so don't waste your time copying "the successful strategies" of others. (Seth Godin)
- Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking, and don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. (Steve Jobs)
- Security is mostly a superstition. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. (Helen Keller)
- The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it. (Michelangelo)
- If at first the idea is not absurd, then there will be no hope for it. (A. Einstein).
- Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats. (Howard Aiken)
- Daring ideas are like chessmen moved forward; they may be beaten, but they may start a winning game. (Goethe).
- You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have. (Maya Angelou)
- Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. (R. Emerson).
- A mediocre idea that generates enthusiasm will go further than a great idea that inspires no one. (Mary Kay Ash)
- Opportunity is missed by most because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work. (Thomas Alva Edison)
- The key to success is for you to make a habit throughout your life of doing the things you fear. (Vincent Van Gogh).
- If you want something new, you have to stop doing something old. (Peter F. Drucker)
- Capital isn't so important in business. Experience isn't so important. You can get both these things. What is important is ideas. If you have ideas, you have the main asset you need, and there isn't any limit to what you can do with your business and your life. (Harvey Firestone)

- After years of telling corporate citizens to 'trust the system', many companies must relearn instead to trust their people and encourage them to use neglected creative capacities in order to tap the most potent economic stimulus of all: idea power. (Rosabeth Moss Kanter)
- It is easier to channel uncomfortable energy into a competitive spirit, than it is to do self-reflection . . . The only real competitor is yourself. You have to do better than you did before. (Simon Sinek)

AND FIVE MORE OF MY OWN:

- Reject best practices for next practices – which are all about pursuing new markets, new concepts, new ways of working, new services, smart extensions, imagination, personal courage and career entrepreneurship.
- Seek and select your client work based more on what you will learn, if you hope to ever improve upon what you will earn.
- When first presented with a new idea, asking ‘will this work’ is entirely the wrong question. Real innovators ask ‘how do we make this work?’
- The root of all successful strategy, going forward, lies in being differentiated and inventing new sources of revenue. Thus, the innovation quest now becomes “What services might we provide that clients are not yet asking for?”
- Let’s think for a minute: How different is what you are doing right now, the strategies that you are employing now, from the four or five key competitors in your marketplace? If your answer is “not much,” then how are you ever expecting to surpass their performance?

Stay well and future focused,
Patrick J. McKenna