Steps to the Creative Process in Art, Writing, and Thinking

Setting clear criteria, teaching students how to judge their own work and each other’s based on these criteria, and encouraging students to evaluate their growth over time through portfolios, are successful instructional techniques in art making, writing, and creative problem solving across the curriculum.

In Art
Step 1 Plan and Practice—questions, discussions, thumbnails and prelims
Step 2 Begin to Create—sketching, arranging, designing and assembling
Step 3 Revise—re-work, move and remove, improve
Step 4 Add Finishing Touches—details, color, presentation
Step 5 Share and Reflect—exhibit, add to portfolio, self-assess

In Writing
Step 1 Plan and Practice—prewriting, outlining, organizing, brainstorming
Step 2 Write a First Draft—get thoughts down on paper
Step 3 Revise—make changes for meaning and clarity
Step 4 Proofread—correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation
Step 5 Share and Reflect—publish and self-assess

In Creative Thinking
Step 1 Plan and Practice—brainstorm ideas, discuss, question
Step 2 Begin to Improvise—imagine, construct, synthesize
Step 3 Review—Analyze and ask questions to determine feasibility
Step 4 Refine Thinking—interpret, explain and create
Step 5 Share and Reflect—Convey ideas and self-assess

Questions to ask yourself

What are the commonalities?
What are the differences?
How can I use this in my art class?
Where can I find something like this?