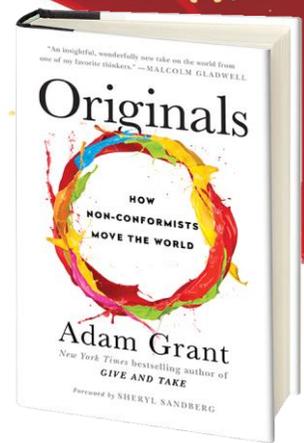


# Discussion Guide



1. Who are your role models for originality and non-conformity? What can you learn from them?
2. When you're dissatisfied with a situation, how do you typically respond: neglect, persistence, exit or voice? How would you like to respond?
3. To speak truth to power, we often need to gain status first. What steps can you take to earn the license to challenge authority?
4. Originals maximize their odds of creating a masterpiece by coming up with a large number of ideas. How do you know when you've generated enough possibilities? Is there such a thing as *too many* ideas?
5. How did your upbringing and experiences in school influence your originality? How can you apply those insights to helping children learn to think differently?
6. What is one default practice or common belief in your organization or industry that deserves to be questioned?
7. When did you find yourself disagreeing with arguments in the book?
8. We gain access to new ideas by broadening our perspectives—scientists get involved in art, and fashion designers take assignments in foreign countries. If you were going to immerse yourself in something new, what would it be?
9. Originals are rarely the first movers; more often, they procrastinate and show up fashionably late to the party. How can you resist the urge to rush the creative process, and make sure you give your ideas enough time to incubate?
10. Original ideas are easier to accept when they're tied to something familiar, like pitching *The Lion King* as *Hamlet* with lions. How can you connect one of your ideas to something that people already understand?
11. Welcoming criticism can be hard. How can you become comfortable enough to receive constructive feedback? How can you encourage others to dissent productively?
12. What are some strategies for uncovering natural skeptics who can help you question your ideas and thinking?
13. How balanced is your risk portfolio? In what areas of your work or life can you be extra-cautious to give yourself the freedom to pursue an original project elsewhere?
14. What are the obstacles to speaking up in your organization? What could you do to invite more voices into the conversation?
15. What emotions do you feel when thinking about speaking up—fear, excitement, enthusiasm, doubt, etc.? What could you do to better manage or harness your emotions?
16. Our biggest supporters aren't always the people who liked us from day one; they are sometimes the people who started against us and then came around. Do you have any of those people in your life? How might you convert an enemy into an ally?
17. If you challenge the status quo, what's the worst that will happen?
18. When you're feeling afraid or anxious about making a suggestion or sharing a new idea, how can you convert those feelings into enthusiasm and excitement?
19. Have you noticed any differences between women and men in originality? Between different industries or the public, private, and social sectors?
20. What can you do to help other people champion their original ideas?