

# 21st Century Classroom Skills

*What are the 21st-century skills that every student needs?*

## Collaborative Problem Solving

Students learn through solving problems. A great way to learn is by effectively working as a team to solve problems as a cohesive, collaborative unit. Working together toward a common goal is a hallmark of human society. One Stanford study found that participants primed to work collaboratively kept working on a task 64% longer than those working alone. A 21st-century curriculum emphasizes team-based projects in which groups draw on each individual's strengths to solve problems. This model exposes students to new ideas and opposing viewpoints, while demonstrating the power of the collective mind.



## Creativity

A 21st-century education affords students opportunities to flex their creative muscles beyond the traditionally creative classes. Whether they work to find a new solution to an old problem or find a different way to explain an everyday occurrence, students are constantly finding their own approaches to problems and projects.

## Hands-On Learning

Students in a 21st-century skills classroom are not afraid to get their hands dirty. They thrive on translating textbook material into real-life scenarios in which teachers encourage creativity, experimentation, and trial-and-error. A 21st-century curriculum takes hands-on learning beyond the art studio and science lab.

In the middle school English class, students create sock puppets and put on a performance of the short story. A European History class decorates T-shirts to illustrate the narrative of the French Revolution. Hands-on learning brings coursework into the here and now through active, project-based activities.



## Cultural Competency

In our diverse, ever-changing world, it's essential that the 21st-century classroom emphasize cultural competency skills, beyond an appreciation for other cultures. The U.S. Census projects that by 2044, the minority population will increase to more than 50%, and the U.S. population will become majority-minority. In a 21st-century skills classroom, all individuals have the opportunity to interact with students from other backgrounds and participate in culturally immersive experiences. These skills will be critical as students fuel future growth on a global scale.



**A good Education is a foundation for a better future.**

**Elizabeth Warner**

## Effective Written and Oral Communication

Students learn to listen actively, organize and articulate a discussion, present information, and argue points respectfully. Communication skills are not seen as a "given." Effective communication, when speaking and writing, is encouraged and cultivated through activities that challenge students to think beyond their knee-jerk reactions or preconceptions about a topic or problem.





### Critical Thinking

The 21st-century skills classroom focuses on asking questions to encourage critical thinking, inquiry, and reasoning. In all courses, students evaluate, synthesize, and translate ideas to solve problems and complete projects.

Teachers also encourage students to hone their reasoning and inquiry skills.

Well-developed thoughts and approaching problems from multiple angles is expected. Students question and analyze information — an increasingly crucial skill — rather than simply memorizing facts and figures.

### Leadership

Today's world needs strong leaders. A 21st-century skills classroom focuses on developing leadership skills related to listening, building consensus, organizing, and motivating a group to action. Students learn what it means to have a responsibility for something beyond themselves. Considering that 47% of managers stepped into their positions without any training, developing leadership skills will pay off significantly as students enter college and the wider world.

# CREATE YOUR OWN STORY



Personal Responsibility and Initiative  
 Students in a 21st-century classroom are challenged to take ownership of their learning and dive headfirst into projects on their own. Staying flexible in the face of ever-changing circumstances is a critical skill for success. When an assignment or activity does not go as planned, students are encouraged to demonstrate humility and react to obstacles in a positive, productive way. In our fast-paced society, the ability to adapt to change will always be in high demand.



### Contact US

Abdo Kaissar

+961 70 960 294

[abdokaissar86@gmail.com](mailto:abdokaissar86@gmail.com)