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 21stcentury 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.



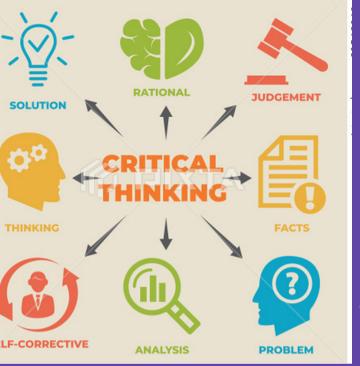
A good Education is a foundation for a better future.

Elizabeth Warner

Effective Written and Oral

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 kneejerk reactions or preconceptions about a topic or problem.





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.





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.

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