

CRIT THINK - YOUR FUTURE MATTERS A/B (9-12)  
**Critical Thinking - Your Future Matters**



**Course Description:**

*This course is designed to build critical thinking skills as they relate to a college and career planning for high school learners. The standards focus is computer literacy in gaining knowledge. The goal is to increase student human and social capital in reference to college access and planning, and college knowledge, as well as the role financial literacy plays in college access and completion. Colleges are seeking well rounded individuals and toward that end, this course comes with an optional lab experience that can be taken in person with an approved community expert or online through a selected companion virtual program. This course may utilize an optional learning experience with a community expert. Consult our [searchable database](#) of Community Partners for*

*a current list of approved community partners. Registration for Community Partners will take place in Go Sign Me Up. Content for this course will appear in our learning management system, Canvas.*

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Objectives:**

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to....*

- ❖ *Identify a problem and create a solution.*
- ❖ *Analyze their findings.*
- ❖ *Record their progress.*
- ❖ *Post to a discussion prompt their status in the class and pose any questions.*
- ❖ *Explain what they have learned through a Capstone Presentation.*
- ❖ *Practice their knowledge of the skills presented.*
- ❖ *Prepare solutions to each problem(s).*
- ❖ *Follow the guidelines for each module and present grade level submissions.*

**Details:**

**School Level:** Grades 9-12  
**Standards:** Michigan Content Standards  
**Course Location:** Canvas  
**When Offered:** Semester 1 & 2  
**Content Provider:** Niles Virtual School  
**Instructor Provider:** Niles Virtual School  
**Enrollment Message:** Students must have access to a computer and internet connection.

**Fall Course Outline:**

Module 1 - Introduction  
 Module 2 - Who Am I?  
 Module 3 - How My Friends, Family, Supportive Adults and Culture Shape My Future  
 Module 4 - Reflecting and Negotiating Multiple Desires for Your Future Goals  
 Module 5 - Cap Stone #1 Personal Statement - The Well Rounded Person  
 Module 6 - Examining My Strengths, Interests and Future Goals  
 Module 7 - Exploring Careers and Pathways  
 Module 8 - Employability Skills

Module 9 - Welcome to the Job!  
 Module 10 - Employee Benefits: Retirement  
 Module 11 - Insurance  
 Module 12 - Taxes  
 Module 13 - Savings vs. Checking Account  
 Module 14 - Credit Score  
 Module 15 - Loans and Interest  
 Module 16 - Investing  
 Module 17 - Budgeting  
 Module 18 - Capstone #2 - Create a Salary Based Budget

**Spring Course Outline:**

Module 9 - The College Essay  
 Module 10 - Resume Workshop

<p>Module 1 - Introduction  Module 2 - What is College and What do I know about College?  Module 3 -Diversity of Colleges and Programs of Study and My Career Goals  Module 4 - My Post Secondary Pathway Options  Module 5 - College Statistics  Module 6 - Capstone #1 - What is College Match and Fit?  Module 7 - My College Support System  Module 8 - College &amp; High School; Same and Different</p>	<p>Module 9 - Examining College Admission  Module 10 - The College Essay  Module 11 - Resume Workshop  Module 12 - Letters of Recommendation  Module 13 - Capstone #1 - Personal Statement, Resume &amp; Letter of Recommendation  Module 14 - So you Applied, what is next?  Module 15 - Basics of Affording College  Module 16 - FAFSA  Module 17 - Scholarships and Grants &amp; Student Loans  Module 18 - Capstone #3 - Understanding Financial Aid Packages &amp; CAKE Test</p>
<p><b>Resources Included:</b>  Students are provided access to Canvas course content. Online lesson instruction and activities, opportunities to engage with a certified, online instructor and classmates, when appropriate, and online assessments to measure student performance of course objectives and readiness for subsequent academic pursuits. Links to resources outside of Canvas will be included in the instruction.</p>	<p><b>Additional Costs:</b>  None. Students will access their course content within the Canvas course shell. If students encounter any issues in accessing their online materials from Canvas, they should contact their instructor</p>
<p><b>Scoring System:</b>  This course will receive a credit/no credit grade. A “credit” grade will be based on a score of 60% or better.</p>	<p><b>Time Commitment:</b>  Semester sessions are 18-weeks long.</p>
<p><b>Technology Requirements:</b>  Students will require a computer device with an up-to-date Chrome Web Browser. Niles Virtual School can provide a computer and wifi for students that qualify. Please contact the Director.   Please review the Niles Virtual School Technology Requirements:  <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Da7eN8rOcfShIYX-AAUqMqBEqqp3PCKuNKII23LVIM/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Da7eN8rOcfShIYX-AAUqMqBEqqp3PCKuNKII23LVIM/edit?usp=sharing</a></p>	<p><b>Required Assessment:</b>  Online assessments consist of formative and summative assessments represented by computer-graded multiple choice, instructor-graded writing assignments including hands-on projects, model building and other forms of authentic assessments.</p>
<p><b>Instructor Contact Expectations:</b>  Students will use email within Canvas to access highly qualified teachers when assistance is needed. The instructor information may provide additional communication options.</p>	<p><b>Academic Support Available:</b>  In addition to access to a highly qualified, Michigan certified teacher, students have access to an appointed mentor. For issues relating to the individual course, students should contact the Teacher of Record for the course.</p>
<p><b>Technical Skills Needed:</b>  No special skills are required beyond the ability to operate a computer and use word processing software.</p>	<p><b>Instructor Support System:</b>  For technical issues within your course, contact the Teacher of Record for the course.</p>

**Content Standards:**

ISTEEL1.1a Students articulate and set personal learning goals, develop strategies leveraging technology to achieve them and reflect on the learning process itself to improve learning outcomes.

ISTEKC1.3.a Students plan and employ effective research strategies to locate information and other resources for their intellectual or creative pursuits.

ISTEKC1.3.b Students evaluate the accuracy, perspective, credibility and relevance of information, media, data or other resources.

ISTEKC1.3.c Students curate information from digital resources using a variety of tools and methods to create collections of artifacts that demonstrate meaningful connections or conclusions.

ISTEKC1.3.d Students build knowledge by actively exploring real-world issues and problems, developing ideas and theories and pursuing answers and solutions.

ISTECC1.6.a Students choose the appropriate platforms and tools for meeting the desired objectives of their creation or communication.

ISTECC1.6.d Students publish or present content that customizes the message and medium for their intended audiences.

ISTEGC1.7.b Students use collaborative technologies to work with others, including peers, experts or community members, to examine issues and problems from multiple viewpoints.

ISTEID1.4.b Students select and use digital tools to plan and manage a design process that considers design constraints and calculated risks.

ISTEID1.4.c Students develop, test and refine prototypes as part of a cyclical design process.