

Description of 21st Century Skills

Introduction

Twenty-first century skills are key abilities regarding how to learn, think, create, and interrelate that will help students succeed in the workplace and life. Below is a description and examples of each skill. More detail about these skills can be found in this [21st Century Skills guide](#).

Skill	Description	Examples
 Communication	An effective communicator: • Successfully receives and imparts information through speaking, writing, reading, listening, fine arts and technology. • Demonstrates proficiency in English, but can preferably utilize two languages. Communication involves effective interpersonal skills during conversations and discussions to build positive relationships with others and promote collaborative learning, it also involves listening effectively to decipher meaning, including knowledge, values, attitudes and intentions, and to deliver effective oral presentations to communicate results of inquiry.	Oral presentation, written report, business plan, essay, letter, stage performance, media technology project, fine arts project
 Critical Thinking	A critical thinker: • Accesses a variety of resources. • Looks for multiple solutions to a problem. • Is intellectually curious. • Thinks creatively and critically. • Applies complex problem solving to real life.	Real life math or science problems, compare and contrast, debate, current event analysis, rhetorical essay, diagram, graphic organizer, storyboard
 Problem Solving	Critical thinking involves diligently using sound reasoning to identify, analyze, and evaluate information in order to make decisions, solve problems, and establish beliefs. Problem solving involves utilizing knowledge, skill or understanding and applying that information to meet the demands of a new situation. The process necessitates critical thinking, creative thinking, and decision making.	
Note: Pick one of these two. You don't need to write about both.		
Skill	Description	Examples

 Creativity	A creative person: • Produces quality work by using appropriate resources and technology. • Achieves outcomes with purpose, audience target, and pride in craftsmanship. Creativity involves thinking and acting outside the box. It includes imagining and innovating beyond regular, establish patterns, rules, and ideas to develop something original that is expressive, meaningful, useful or aesthetically pleasing.	Fine arts project, creative writing, invention, business idea, clever use of resources, graphic organizer
 Collaboration	A collaborator: • Uses social skills to work effectively with people varying in gender race, attitudes, ability, and cultural backgrounds. • Shows consideration and respect. Collaboration means cooperating and contributing as a member of a productive group, interacting respectfully and flexibly with diverse teammates, and uniting with others to achieve a goal.	Group project, teamwork, an evaluation emphasizing interpersonal skills
 Self- Direction	A self-directed learner: • Makes valid judgments about what and how to learn. • Assesses results. • Makes informed choices. • Considers consequences. • Develops goals beyond graduation. Self-directed and independent learning is characterized by utilizing time and managing workload effectively. It involves monitoring, defining, prioritizing, and completing tasks without direct oversight.	Goal setting, reflection paper, plan, budget
 Technology	A technically savvy student: • Utilizes various hardware and software devices to communicate, create, think critically and collaborate.	Project created with media tools, web literacy, digital citizenship, citation of

		sources
 Global Awareness	A globally aware student: • Contributes time, energy, and talents to improve the quality of life for themselves, their school, and their community. • Understands current events. Students who are culturally and globally competent value diversity, exhibit an informed sensitivity, and actively engage with other cultures.	Cross-cultural experience, cultural geography project, current event analysis, political action, social justice, citizenship