
Marc Prensky's Essential 21st Century Skills

The Goal: To be able to follow one's passion(s) as far as one's abilities allow

In order to do that, no matter what the future brings, individuals must master the following skills:

1. Knowing the right thing to do

- a. Behaving ethically
- b. Thinking critically
- c. Setting goals
- d. Having good judgment
- e. Making good decisions

2. Getting it done

- a. Planning
- b. Solving problems
- c. Self-directing
- d. Self-assessing
- e. Iterating

3. Doing it with others

- a. Taking leadership
- b. Communicating/interacting with individuals and groups (especially using technology)
- c. Communicating/interacting with machines (= "programming")
- d. Communicating/interacting with a world audience
- e. Communicating/interacting across cultures

4. Doing it creatively

- a. Adapting
- b. Thinking creatively
- c. Tinkering and designing
- d. Playing
- e. Finding your voice

5. Constantly doing it better

- a. Reflecting
- b. Being proactive
- c. Taking prudent risks
- d. Thinking long-term
- e. Continually improving through learning

(Note that many of these terms and ideas come from Stephen Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. 'Tinkering' is from John Seeley Brown.)