

The Seven Survival Skills of the 21st Century

- 1 - This is out of my comfort zone, and I'm not sure where to start!
- 2 - I can do some parts of this skill, but I still need practice and help with strategies to try.
- 3 - This is a skill I feel comfortable with, and I'm practicing to get even better.
- 4 - I have mastered this skill, and I'm ready to use it in high school, college, and beyond!

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving	
A	I can ask questions that inspire others (and me) to think deeply about a topic or issue beyond the obvious or superficial.
B	I can ask thoughtful questions that probe and explore a problem, analyzing whether there is an innovative way to solve it.
C	I can brainstorm many ideas freely without judgment or criticism, while also inviting others to contribute their ideas, and be willing to discuss ideas that may seem unusual or unlikely at first.
Collaboration and Leadership	
A	I can engage both my peers and adults in meaningful discussions by using my body language and dialogue in a way that invites others to participate.
B	I can confidently lead my peers by setting an example and seeking the advice of others when making decisions.
Agility and Adaptability	
A	I can keep an open mind about my beliefs or the “right” way to do something, and am willing to set aside my assumptions, stereotypes or bias.
B	I can quickly adjust my approach to a task by trying new strategies or using a variety of tools.
Taking Initiative and Reaching Goals	
A	I can set goals that are SMART: <u>S</u> pecific (detailed), <u>M</u> easurable (clear checkpoints for progress), <u>A</u> ttainable (possible through effort), <u>R</u> esourceful (tools and information are available), and <u>T</u> ime-Based (an endpoint).
B	I can take risks that are outside of my comfort zone, and even if I don’t succeed at first, I will continue to grow from my failures and mistakes.
Effective Verbal and Written Communication	
A	I can express my ideas with focus, energy, and passion!
B	I can speak clearly and eloquently in front of both my peers and adults, whether in a discussion or in a presentation, while also maintaining eye contact and appropriate volume.

C	I can express my thoughts concisely in written communication to both my peers and adults, whether in the form of feedback, reflections, e-mails to teachers, reports, or essays.	1 2 3 4
D	I can speak and write confidently with few spelling, punctuation, usage, or grammatical errors.	1 2 3 4

Accessing and Analyzing Information

A	I can carefully review the guidelines of a task and take an inventory of what resources I have available.	1 2 3 4
B	I can use technology to research information from valid and reliable sources, and I can use a variety of search terms.	1 2 3 4
C	I can cite my sources correctly to avoid plagiarism by using signal phrases and parenthetical citations in MLA or APA format.	1 2 3 4
D	I can understand how different parts of my research relate to a whole; synthesizing the information in a new, valuable way that contributes to the existing body of knowledge.	1 2 3 4

Curiosity and Imagination

A	I can be actively curious about my world: to pursue the answers to questions that no one has thought to ask yet, to design products or services that haven't been invented yet, and to dream of solutions to problems that don't exist yet!	1 2 3 4
B	I can use my unique strengths, passions, and abilities to offer something to this class, this school and this world that has never been seen or done before. I believe that my voice and my presence here matters!	1 2 3 4

Before you reflect on your evaluation, please note that we will be revisiting this throughout your learning journey. These 21st-century skills are going to play a part in your monthly reflections and conferences. These skills will also guide your learning and provide a way for you and your grader to measure your learning.

During our monthly conferences, you will be asked to answer the following questions:

How have you shown growth with the goals listed above?

Do you need to make any adjustments?

Which skill has been the hardest for you to practice and improve? Why?

At the end of the year, you will be asked to answer the following questions in your final reflection:

In which area did you grow the most this year? Give specific examples of ways that you challenged yourself.

What have you learned through this process?

With all this in mind, it is time to reflect on your evaluation. This reflection will be a part of your project proposal and may also be included in your introduction for your portfolio. So, pretend that you are putting this straight into your proposal and make it as thorough, professional, detailed, and meaningful as possible. Your future self will thank you!

21st Century Skills Reflection

How do you know you lack these skills?

I asked myself if I would actually do these things, then I answered as honestly as I can with myself.

Why are these skills necessary for success?

They are to help keep you on track to actually continue to make progress.

How might you acquire and refine these skills during your project?

Practice using them more to grow the ability. The only way to get better at something is to do it more.

How will you know you've successfully acquired these skills?

Another self evaluation and/or a peer evaluation.