


Flexible Thinking

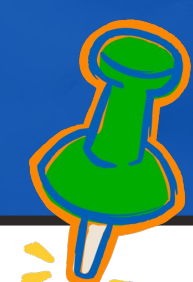
Go For Your Goals, Module 5




AGENDA

A hand holding a megaphone with yellow lightning bolts emanating from it, and a green pushpin with a yellow outline pinned to the top of the first box.

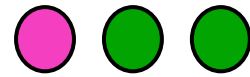
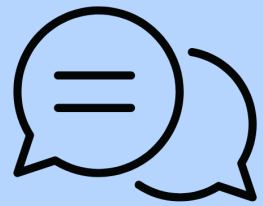
1. Brainstorm what you think leaders of top corporations think about what skills students need to be successful in the workplace?

A green pushpin with a yellow outline pinned to the top of the second box.

2. Independently, students will brainstorm how many uses they can come up with for a rubber band.

A green pushpin with a yellow outline pinned to the top of the third box.

3. Reflect: which of the skills employers say students need to be successful are areas of strength for you?

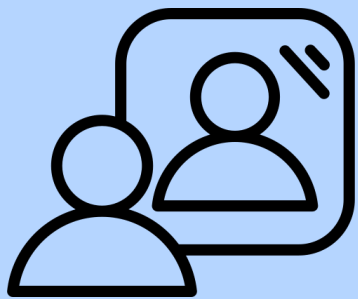
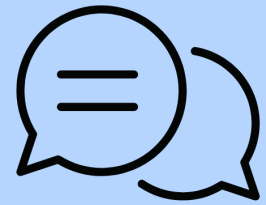


BRAINSTORM



LinkedIn recently asked the leaders of top corporations what skills students need to be successful in the workplace. What do you think some of those skills are?





DISCUSS



What are some examples of times when you have shown these skills?

- Adaptive Thinking
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Critical Thinking
- Etc.



DIVE IN



What are some skills students need in order to be successful in the workplace?

Adaptive thinking, communication and collaboration skills, critical thinking and problem solving, and creativity and innovation.

Flexible thinking

Flexible thinking is sometimes also called divergent or elastic thinking and it is the ability to adapt or adjust to new situations easily. But being able to adapt means more than just “going with the flow”.



ACTIVITY



Independently, students will brainstorm how many uses they can think of for a rubber band.

Then, in a group, students will combine and share the uses they came up with.



Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Flexible Thinking

Skills Employers Say Students Need to Be Successful:

Adaptive Thinking: Learning new skills and information quickly.	Communication Skills: Speaking, listening, writing, showing empathy to all kinds of people in a variety of modes.	Teamwork & Collaboration: Being able to work independently as well as on a team.
Executive Functioning: Being organized, managing your time.	Critical Thinking: Finding different ways to solve problems.	Creativity & Innovation: Being able to think outside the box to find ideas.

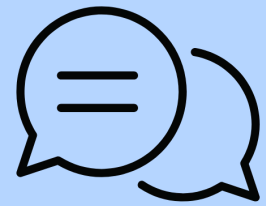
Practice Flexible Thinking: How many uses can you identify for the _____.

List them here:

Individually	As a pair	As a group

Reflect

Which of the skills employers say students need to be successful are areas of strength for you?
Which are areas you'd like to improve?



REFLECT



Which of the skills employers say students need to be successful are areas of strength for you? Which are areas you'd like to improve?



Extend & Enrich

Project based learning (PBL) activities often give students the opportunity to practice flexible thinking skills. The Bucks Institute for Education has free lesson plan ideas teachers can use to integrate PBL into their classroom. To find activities, visit: www.pblworks.org/what-is-pbl.

- EdWeek: How do you Define 21st Century Learning?
www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/how-do-you-define-21st-century-learning/2010/10
- LinkedIn: *10 Skills Students Need to be Successful*:
www.linkedin.com/business/learning/blog/higher-education/10-skills-all-students-need-to-be-successful
- Scientific American: *The Power of Flexible Thinking*:
www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-power-of-flexible-thinking/



Home Connection



Home Connection

Flexible Thinking

Dear _____,

Today in class, we learned that **flexible thinking** is sometimes also called divergent or elastic thinking and it is the ability to adapt or adjust to new situations easily. But being able to adapt means more than just "going with the flow". It means being able to use logic, reasoning, and imagination to come up with new ideas in new situations.

Please encourage your student to share the skills reviewed that they will need to be successful employees in the future.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best,

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Professional Development



Take 5 minutes to consider: Are there ways you can integrate more flexible thinking activities into your classroom?





Lesson Complete!

