



Get Students Future Ready Today!

Use these activities to help students build key future-ready skills — critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication.



▶ CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITIES

Critical thinking enables students to analyze problems systematically and logically, understand the connection between ideas, re-evaluate their beliefs based on facts, and be curious about the world. Students who are proficient in this skill can convey their ideas convincingly with logical reasoning and develop innovative solutions to complex issues.



Debate Royale: Battle of the Minds for a Common Goal

1. Choose a topic relevant to students' lives and your curriculum and give an introductory lecture.
2. Randomly divide the class into two groups.
3. Direct each group to take a stance on the issue, regardless of their personal views.
4. Have students from each group take turns sharing their compelling arguments, research, views, and ideas on the topic.
5. End the debate by having both teams come together to create and agree upon a solution using the ideas generated during the debate.



Article Avengers: Unleash Your Inner Critic and Become a Super Evaluator!

1. Present an article from a journal that is related to a current topic of conversation in class.
2. Have students read the article critically and evaluate strengths and weaknesses in the author's stated position.
3. Direct students to write about what they think about the article, including any misleading points, biases, etc. Have them critique the work using their own judgements, understanding, and experiences.
4. Finally, have students create a presentation (written or spoken) that allows them to discuss the fallacies and rationality of judgments in the article, using their own critical thinking to come up with new ideas about the topic.



▶ PROBLEM SOLVING ACTIVITIES

Problem solving enables students to overcome obstacles and find solutions to challenging issues. When students develop their problem-solving skills, they become more independent and self-reliant, which helps build confidence and resilience. Whether it's in the classroom or the workplace, problem solving helps students become better equipped to adapt to changing circumstances, handle adversity, and achieve their goals.



Classroom Clue Race: Be the First to Crack the Case!

1. Break the class into small groups of 3–4 students.
2. For each group, select a profession, social trend, place, public figure, historical event, animal, etc. that they will try to guess.
3. Assemble 5–10 clue items, or picture representation of the items, that are commonly associated with the correct answer.
4. Place the items/pictures in a bag or box.
5. Have each student on the team reach in one by one to pull out clues.
6. After pulling out a clue, each student must venture a guess at what it represents.
7. Have each group time themselves to see how quickly they are able to solve the riddle.



Survivor Classroom Edition: Outwit, Outplay, Outlast!

1. Create a pretend scenario in which students are stranded on an island and help will not arrive for three days.
2. Designate a limited amount of food, water, and shelter items from around the island.
3. Have students split into small groups of 4–5 students.
4. Each group will work together to discuss strategies, ideas, or innovative ways they will make it through the three days as safely and as comfortably as possible.
5. Have each group present their survival strategies in front of the class.
6. Have the classroom vote on their favorite survival strategies after seeing all the presentations.



▶ WRITTEN COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

Effectively written communication help students articulate their thoughts, ideas, and opinions, which is highly valued by teachers and employers. The ability to write persuasively is also a valuable skill for advocacy and leadership. Students who possess strong written communication skills will have an advantage in their academic and professional lives because they are able to effectively communicate with diverse audiences.



A Globetrotter's Travel Pitch

1. Take students on a virtual field trip using Nearpod, Google Earth, or YouTube.
2. After students watch the field trip video, instruct students to write a blog post to describe their experience of the place they just visited.
3. Then, have students write a blog post about a place they've visited in real life.
4. Have students compare their two blogs and highlight sections where the descriptions were more rich and visceral based on how the student interpreted and experienced each destination.
5. Ask them to use imagery, ideas, etc. from their strongest blog to re-write and improve the alternate blog.
6. For the final blog, have students write a sidebar that offers recommendations for visitors and instruct students to do their best to persuade people to visit the destination.
7. Encourage students to use pictures to supplement their writing. They could also convert their written piece into a mini-video production for a real or imagined YouTube channel that promotes exotic getaways.
8. Have students pitch their final vlog, blog, brochure, or powerpoint presentation to the class.
9. At the end of all of the presentations, have students pick the destination (other than their own) that they most want to visit based on the persuasiveness of their classmates.



Social Stardom: Craft Epic Social Media Messages!

1. Prompt students to become a make believe social media influencer in a topic or subject area you're teaching.
2. Instruct students to research a specific aspect of the topic.
3. Have students take pictures and/or make videos for their posts.
4. Then instruct students to write posts for each photo or video with explanatory captions.
5. Students can display their posts on a web page or poster board for the rest of the class to read.