

The Critical Skills Program

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**What are the
knowledge, skills,
and dispositions
that people need
in order to be
successful in life?**

The Skills and Dispositions

The Critical Skills

- ∩ problem solving
- ∩ decision making
- ∩ critical thinking
- ∩ creative thinking
- ∩ communication
- ∩ organization
- ∩ collaboration
- ∩ leadership

The Fundamental Dispositions

- ∩ ownership
- ∩ self-direction
- ∩ quality work
- ∩ ethical character
- ∩ curiosity and wonder
- ∩ community





Global Survival Skills

- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- Collaboration across Networks
- Agility & Adaptability
- Initiative & Entrepreneurialism
- Effective Oral & Written Communication
- Accessing & Analyzing Information
- Curiosity & Imagination



21st Century Skills

*** Creativity and Innovation**

Think Creatively

Work Creatively with Others

Implement Innovations

*** Critical Thinking and Problem Solving**

Reason Effectively

Use Systems Thinking

Make Judgments and Decisions

Solve Problems

*** Communication and Collaboration**

Communicate Clearly

Collaborate with Others

*** Life and Career Skills**

Flexibility & Adaptability

Initiative & Self Directions

Social & Cross-Cultural Skills

Productivity & Accountability

Leadership & Responsibility

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills

<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>



Why Critical Skills?

- A way of teaching that helps you turn CES philosophy into practice.
- Instruction that engages and inspires teachers and students.
- An intentional way of targeting specific capacities in your students.
- A new paradigm for rigor.
- A meaningful way to build strong, collaborative learning communities.



The Critical Skills Classroom

- Collaborative Learning
- Problem-Based Learning

(Place-Based Learning)

- Experiential Learning
- Outcome-Driven Learning



Collaborative Learning

Community

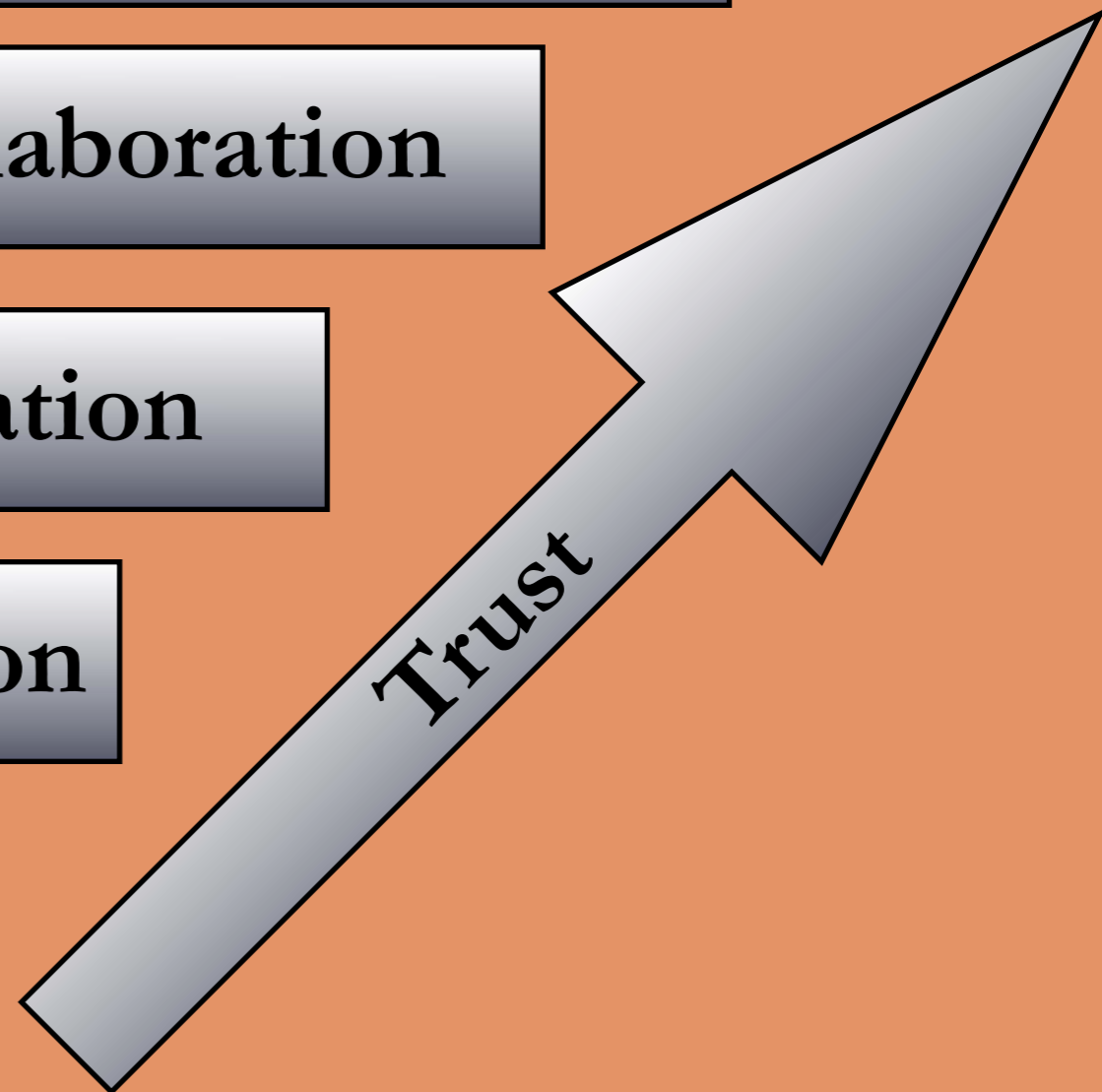
Collaboration


Cooperation

Communication

Knowledge

Trust





Problem Based Learning

(Place Based Learning)

Real World Problem

Scenario

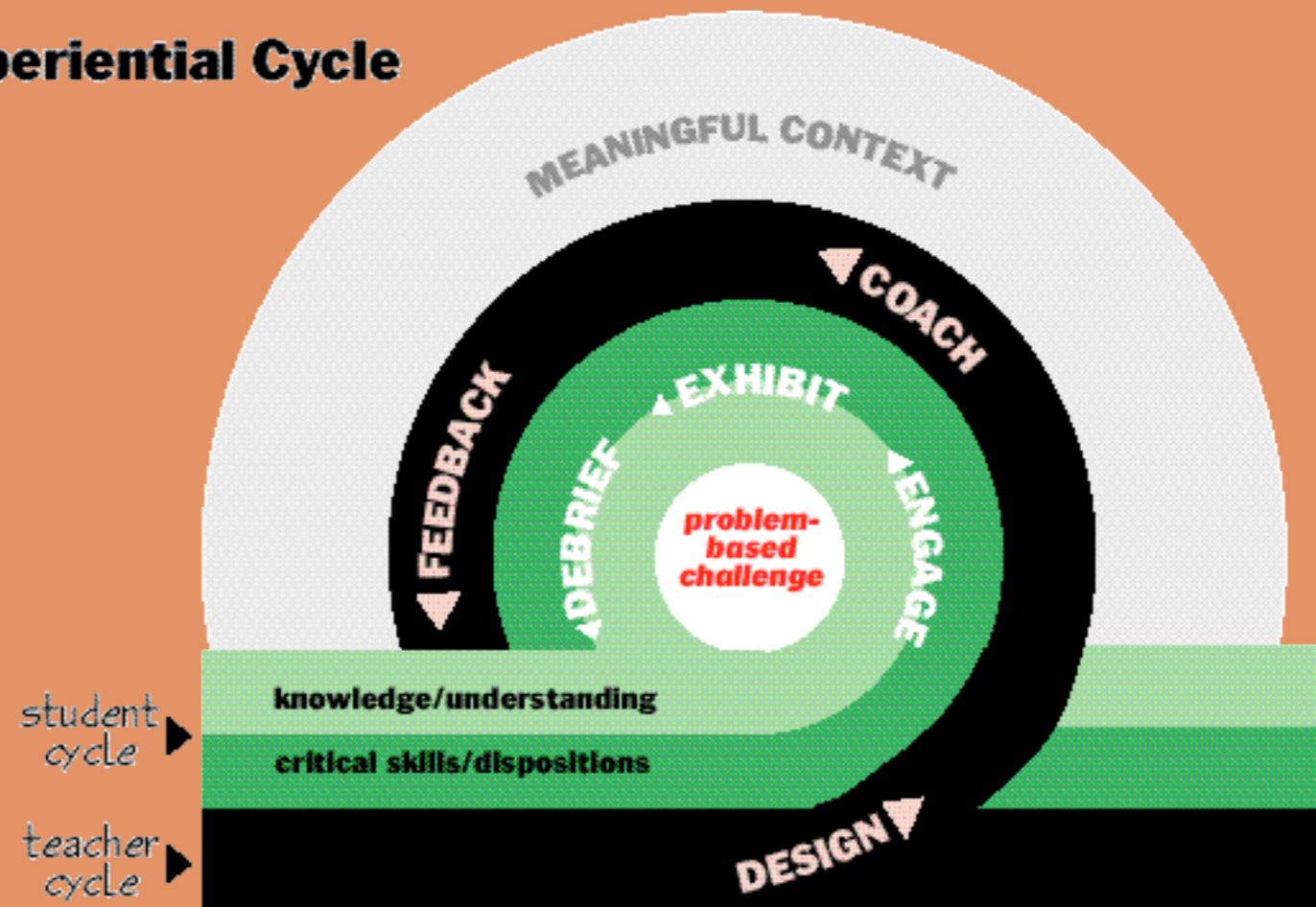
Academic Challenge

Task

Increasing Complexity,
Authenticity, "Messiness," Student
Responsibility

Experiential Learning

The Experiential Cycle



Collaborative
Learning Community
Environment



Outcome Driven Learning

- **Essential Knowledge**
- **Critical Skills**
- **Fundamental Dispositions**



The Skills and Dispositions

The Critical Skills

- ◌ problem solving
- ◌ decision making
- ◌ critical thinking
- ◌ creative thinking
- ◌ communication
- ◌ organization
- ◌ collaboration
- ◌ leadership

The Fundamental Dispositions

- ◌ ownership
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- ◌ community



The Critical Skills Classroom

Collaborative Learning

Experiential Learning

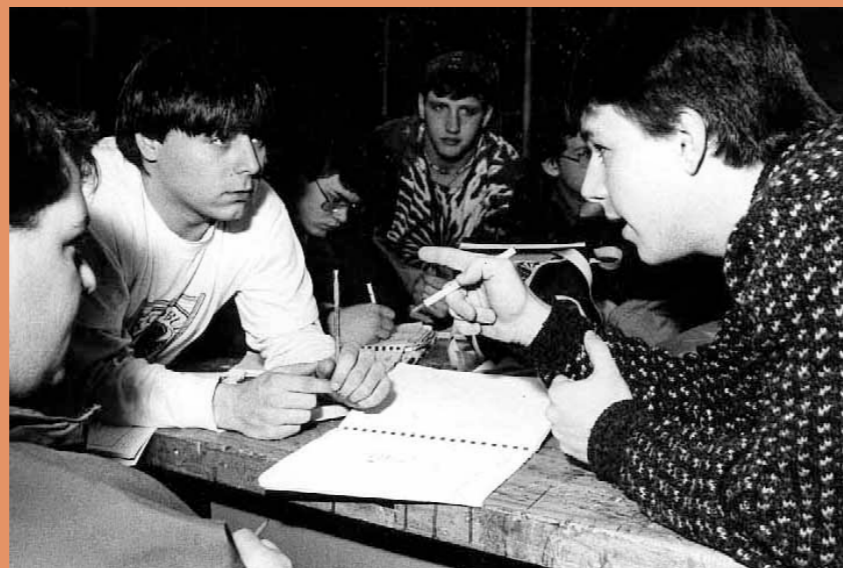
The Critical Skills Classroom

Outcome Driven Learning

Problem Based Learning
Place Based Learning



What happens in a Critical Skills Classroom ?





Students in a Critical Skills Classroom...

- Frequently work as learning teams
- Regularly engage in solving problems
- Make public exhibitions of their learning
- Systematically reflect on what they are doing & learning
- Focus on standards of quality for their work (products, processes and understandings)
- Take shared responsibility and ownership of their learning and for the classroom community



Teachers in a Critical Skills Classroom...

- Model, guide, coach, & support the learning process
- Design learning activities that are engaging, contextual, and carefully built on one another
- Intentionally target the critical skills, dispositions, and essential knowledge to guide the classroom culture, curriculum, & assessment



Critical Skills Institute

- Experiential immersion in a Critical Skills Classroom
- Under the guidance and leadership of two experienced Master Teachers
- Up to 24 participants
- Best if participants come as a team
- On-site and online follow-up available
- Capacity building: Level II and Leadership Development



The Level I Institute

- * Developing the classroom as a collaborative, problem-solving community
- * Using the experiential learning cycle to support student learning
- * Setting and maintaining criteria for quality work
- * Targeting the Critical Skills alongside the curriculum
- * Turning curriculum into different types of problems to solve that provide a meaningful context for learning
- * Using simple performance-based assessment tools
- * Planning & structuring student exhibitions of learning
- * Guiding student reflection and debriefing processes



For More Information

www.antiochne.edu/acsr/criticalskills

Challenge Bank
Tools for Teachers
Research on the Model
Registration