CROSS-BORDER COFFEE BREAK

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING SKILLS OF THE FUTURE AND HOW CAN WE TEACH THEM NOW?

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Exhibit 1: Students require 16 skills for the 21st century

21st-Century Skills

Foundational Literacies
How students apply core skills to everyday tasks
1. Literacy
2. Numeracy
3. Scientific literacy
4. ICT literacy
5. Financial literacy
6. Cultural and civic literacy

Competencies
How students approach complex challenges
7. Critical thinking/problem-solving
8. Creativity
9. Communication
10. Collaboration

Character Qualities
How students approach their changing environment
11. Curiosity
12. Initiative
13. Persistence/grit
14. Adaptability
15. Leadership
16. Social and cultural awareness

Lifelong Learning

Note: ICT stands for information and communications technology.
The 21 century skills:

- Information literacy, or information problem-solving skills (Brand-Gruwel & Stadtler, 2011)- searching, identifying, evaluating (quality and reliability), and effectively using information;

- Information management- capture, curate and share information (Al-Hawamdeh, 2002)
Will computers and AI replace workers, or will they create new demand for labor?

- Depreciation of human capital (Thijssen & Walter 2006): in terms of knowledge, skills, abilities, attitudes, insights, visions, and views.
- The degree to which workers/professionals do not update their knowledge and skills to effectively accomplish their current or future jobs.

What can we as educators do? What skills should we train our students to?
Future-proof learning (Kirschner, 2017)

- Metacognition and reflection;
- Skills transfer;
- Critical thinking;
- Learn in authentic situations;
- Competences;
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...

Kirschner & Stoyanov, 2018
Future-proof learning through...

- **Authentic, or real-world tasks**

  Real-world tasks support critical thinking, professional skills acquisition, situated knowledge, collaboration, higher-order thinking

  Examples:

- Simulate negotiation; Simulate a job interview; Invite practitioners as guest lecturers (preferably request that they engage students with Q&A, and give challenges); examples from students' everyday life
Future-proof learning through:

- **Case-studies**
- Using cases as a teaching method leads students to apply critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, learn in authentic situations, and supports skills transfer.

Examples:
- [Harvard Business School](https://www.hbs.edu)
- [Stanford Graduate School of Business](https://gsb.stanford.edu)
- And many more. These can be used as models, or as vicarious experience.
- For higher effectiveness and authentic learning, create your own cases.
Future-proof learning through...

- Metacognition- critical awareness of one's thinking and learning
  
  Metacognitive practices allow students to skills transfer, to know their strengths and weaknesses and to create plans for development.

- David Ausubel: “The most important single factor influencing learning, is what the learner already knows”

- Examples:

  - Primers: *what do I already know about the topic?*
  
  - The Muddiest Point: *what confuses me about the material/ activities in class?*
  
  - Retrospective: *what did I think before, and what do I think now?*

  - Stimulate students to ask their own questions; write reflection journals; concept maps
Teacher professionalization, Student-centered learning, digital literacies

*Teaching is not rocket science-- It is much harder than that.* (Diana Lauillard)

- The role of the educator is not that of the beholder of knowledge, but that of the designer of contexts and activities which promote learning (mathemagenic activities, Rothkopf).
- Students should be aware not only of what they have learned, but also how they have learned.
- Consider giving badges, and allow multiple learning pathways
- Support student portfolios
- As graduates our students will use even more technology than during the course of their university education
- We don' need to know every edtech tool out there but we need to be aware of what technology has to offer and keep ourselves up-to-date
- Shifting from teacher-centered to student-centered approach requires training
QUESTION & ANSWER