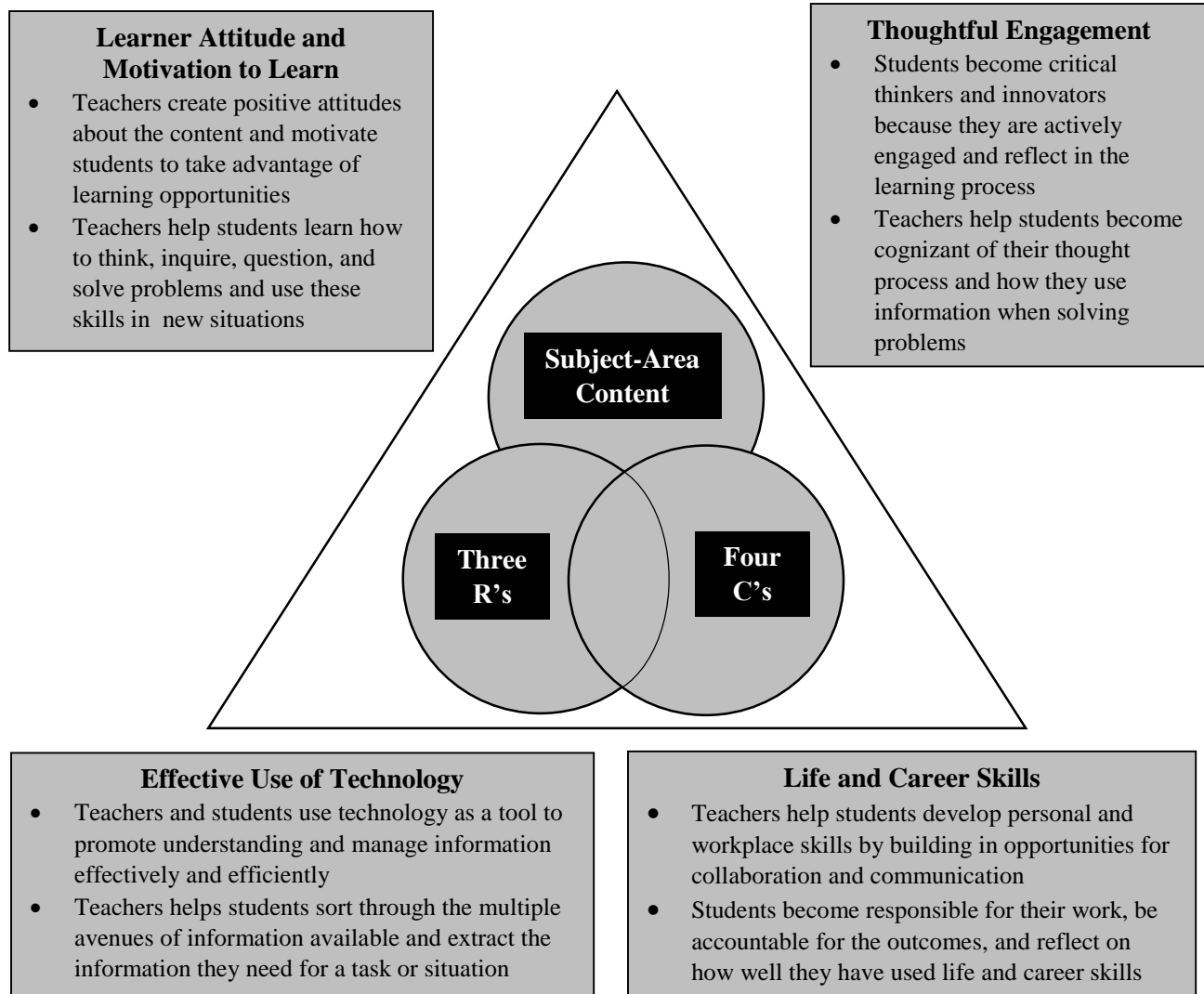


21st Century Learning

Designing Instruction for 21st Century Learning:

To create a generation of learners who think independently, engage and reflect, and are equipped to handle the world of the future, educators must integrate processing skills with reading, writing, and mathematics across all the disciplines. By implementing 21st century learning, educators teach and students learn higher levels of understanding, technology and problem solving skills, real-world applications and experiences that are meaningful and relevant, and construct new knowledge and communicate it with others.

Elements of 21st Century Instruction



Education that prepares students for the future is all about creating learning opportunities in which learners create their own learning. The 21st century requires educators to develop a generation of creative thinkers, learners who think strategically to solve problems and who communicate effectively and collaborate with others. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills outlines the four C's which address these kinds of things teachers and students should possess and integrate to be successful.

- **Creativity and innovation (think creatively, work creatively with others, implement innovation)**
 - ✓ Students should possess a deep understanding of both content and creative processes to be able to explain their ideas or solutions to others.
 - ✓ Students should be open and responsive to new and diverse perspectives and incorporate group input and feedback into the work.
 - ✓ Teachers should provide a safe, inviting learning environment in which ideas are accepted, mistakes are acknowledged, and students are free from harassment.
- **Critical thinking and problem solving (reason effectively, use systems thinking, make judgments and decisions)**
 - ✓ Students should have the ability to reason effectively to solve problems, ask questions to deepen understanding, evaluate information, and select the best solution to put into action.
 - ✓ Students should be able to synthesize and make connections between information and arguments, interpret information and draw conclusions based on the best analysis, and reflect critically on learning experiences and processes.
 - ✓ Teachers should provide time for students to think through the information individually before working in groups, accept solutions but push them to reflect, and provide thoughtful questions to guide students' thinking.
- **Communication**
 - ✓ Students should be able to clearly understand, determine the method of communication, consider the audience, and craft a message in a way that ensures that it is understood by the intended audience.
 - ✓ Students should communicate effectively in diverse environments and for a wide range of purposes (inform, instruct, motivate, and persuade).
 - ✓ Teachers should encourage students to work collaboratively which requires them to communicate effectively.
- **Collaboration**
 - ✓ Students should be able to contribute their ideas while assuming ideas of others to expand their knowledge and understanding, creating a shared body of knowledge with a group.
 - ✓ Students should demonstrate ability to work effectively and respectfully with diverse teams and exercise flexibility and willingness to be helpful to accomplish a common goal.
 - ✓ Teachers should provide students with training in the skills they need to work effectively with others (active listening, working respectfully, follow rules, see multiple points of view, value ideas and opinions, compromise to reach goals, keep an open mind, and take responsibility).

Upon regular practice of the four C's, students will deepen their understanding of the content, increase their interest in the subject and retention of topics and key information, develop thinking routines, and be prepared for the future.

Reference:

Beers, S.Z. (2011). *Teaching 21st Century Skills*. ASCD.