
Prensky's Five Skills Framework

for Problem-Solving

The Goal: To be able to follow one's passion(s) as far as one's abilities allow

In order to do that, no matter what the future brings, individuals must master the following skills:

1. Figuring Out the right thing to do

- a. Identifying problems
- b. Behaving ethically
- c. Thinking critically
- d. Making good decisions and judgments
- e. Setting Goals

2. Getting it done

- a. Planning
- b. Analyzing
- c. Self-directing
- d. Self-assessing
- e. Iterating

3. Working with others

- a. Taking leadership
- b. Working with individuals and groups (especially using technology)
- c. Communicating/interacting with machines (= "programming")
- d. Communicating/interacting with a world audience
- e. Communicating/interacting across cultures

4. Doing it creatively

- a. Adapting
- b. Thinking creatively
- c. Tinkering and designing
- d. Playing
- e. Finding your voice

5. Continually doing it better

- a. Reflecting
- b. Being proactive
- c. Taking prudent risks
- d. Thinking long-term
- e. Constantly improving through learning

Note: Many of these terms and ideas derive from, and build on, Stephen Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. 'Tinkering' is from John Seeley Brown.