





MCPS Thinking and Academic Success Skills Glossary




Creative Thinking Skills:

involves putting facts, concepts, and principles together in new ways and demonstrating a novel way of seeing or doing things. During this students may disregard accepted principles. Some examples are:

-  **Elaboration**— Adding details that expand, enrich, or embellish.
-  **Flexibility**— Being open and responsive to new and diverse ideas and strategies and moving freely among them.
-  **Fluency**— Generating multiple responses to a problem or an idea.
-  **Originality**— Creating ideas and solutions that are novel or unique to the individual, group, or situation.

Critical Thinking Skills:

involves being objective and open-minded while thinking carefully about what to do or what to believe, based on evidence and reason. During this students deeply question and apply accepted principles. Some examples are:

-  **Analysis**— Breaking down a whole into parts that may not be immediately obvious and examining the parts so that the structure of the whole is understood.
-  **Evaluation**— Weighing evidence, examining claims, and questioning facts to make judgments based upon criteria.
-  **Synthesis**— Putting parts together to build understanding of a whole concept or to form a new or unique whole.

Academic Success Skills:

involves possessing attitudes and behaviors that enable students to reach their full potential in academic settings. Some examples are:

- + Collaboration—** Working effectively and respectfully to reach a group goal.
- + Effort/Motivation/Persistence—** Working diligently and applying effective strategies to achieve a goal or solve a problem; continuing in the face of obstacles and competing pressures.
- + Intellectual Risk Taking—** Accepting uncertainty or challenging the norm to reach a goal.
- + Metacognition—** Knowing and being aware of one's own thinking and having the ability to monitor and evaluate one's own thinking.