Teaching the iGeneration: Essential Skills Check

This survey is designed to collect information about how well the students in your school have mastered the skills and behaviors of successful learners—information management, persuasion, communication, and collaborative problem solving.

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statements below.				Please indicate how important your teachers and/or teams think these skills are.		
Information Management: *Surrounded by a sea of easily accessible content, students must be able to access content efficiently, judge the reliability of sources and organize collections of materials for further exploration.*	**Disagree**	**Neutral**	**Agree**	**Not important**	**Somewhat important**	**Very important**
1. Our students understand how to judge the reliability of external websites.	1	2	3	1	2	3
2. Our students can identify bias in resources.	1	2	3	1	2	3
3. Our students understand how to use advanced search strategies to find resources.	1	2	3	1	2	3
4. Our students know how to identify important subtopics connected to the content they are studying.	1	2	3	1	2	3
5. Our students use digital tools to automate the collection of resources connected to the content that they are studying.	1	2	3	1	2	3
6. Our students join together in groups to organize and evaluate resources connected to the content they are studying.	1	2	3	1	2	3
7. Our students understand the importance of developing research collections that reflect the complete range of perspectives on controversial issues.	1	2	3	1	2	3
Persuasion: *In today's world, new opportunities exist for individuals and groups to raise their voices. Students must, however, understand the characteristics of persuasive messages in order to be influential.*	**Disagree**	**Neutral**	**Agree**	**Not important**	**Somewhat important**	**Very important**
1. Our students believe that they can be influential.	1	2	3	1	2	3
2. Our students understand the role that evidence plays in developing credibility.	1	2	3	1	2	3
3. Our students can identify convincing pieces of evidence connected to the content they are studying.	1	2	3	1	2	3
4. Our students actively seek to identify and understand differing perspectives when crafting persuasive messages.	1	2	3	1	2	3

	Disagree	Neutral	Agree		Not important	Somewhat important	Very important
5. Our students can describe the strengths and weaknesses in opposing viewpoints on controversial issues.	1	2	3		1	2	3
6. Our students recognize the increasing role that images and video are playing in persuasive efforts and can explain the characteristics of the most memorable visual messages	1	2	3		1	2	3
7. Our students understand the differences between content licensed by the Creative Commons and content that has been protected by copyright.	1	2	3		1	2	3
Communication: *Regardless of the generation, humans have always relied on interactions with others for intellectual growth. That means our students must be skilled at leveraging conversations for learning.*	**Disagree**	**Neutral**	**Agree**		**Not important**	**Somewhat important**	**Very important**
1. Our students understand the differences between collaborative and competitive dialogue.	1	2	3		1	2	3
2. Our students feel comfortable interacting with one another in conversations about the content they are studying.	1	2	3		1	2	3
3. Our students see conversations as opportunities to develop shared knowledge with one another.	1	2	3		1	2	3
4. Our students believe that they can learn from their peers in classroom conversations.	1	2	3		1	2	3
5. Our students take active steps in conversations to ask good questions, correct inaccurate information, engage silent classmates and/or make the discussion safe for everyone.	1	2	3		1	2	3
6. Our students have mastered strategies for handling disagreements in classroom conversations.	1	2	3		1	2	3
7. Our students understand the strengths and weaknesses of new digital spaces for conversations.	1	2	3		1	2	3
Collaborative Problem Solving: *The most important challenges facing tomorrow's world are borderless, requiring creative solutions developed by teams working across domains and continents. That means our students must be comfortable as innovative problem solvers AND collaborators.*	**Disagree**	**Neutral**	**Agree**		**Not important**	**Somewhat important**	**Very important**
1. Our students are comfortable solving defined problems that have no clear solutions.	1	2	3		1	2	3
2. Our students are able to generate potential solutions that are both plausible and inventive.	1	2	3		1	2	3
3. Our students effectively rate and rank potential solutions.	1	2	3		1	2	3

4. Our students quickly move away from potential solutions that would be impossible to implement.	1	2	3		1	2	3
5. Our students understand that solutions developed collaboratively are well-informed and highly polished.	1	2	3		1	2	3
6. Our students can explain the characteristics of the groups that are the most successful at developing effective solutions to challenging problems.	1	2	3		1	2	3
7. Our students value diverse thoughts as sources for potential solutions to challenging problems.	1	2	3		1	2	3

Questions for Reflection

Looking over each of the four major domains on this survey—*information management, persuasion, communication and collaborative problem solving*—where are your students highly skilled? Where are there gaps in their abilities? What concerns you in your responses regarding your students? What can you celebrate in your responses regarding your students?	
Looking over each of the four major domains on this survey—*information management, persuasion, communication and collaborative problem solving*—where are your teachers highly skilled? Which skills and/or behaviors do they believe in? How can you use this knowledge when planning your next steps with digital tools and/or spaces?	
Based on what you know about your students, your teachers and your school's vision for effective teaching and learning, how would you prioritize the four major domains on this checklist? What domains do you believe are the most important for moving your school forward? Which are the least important? Are there any domains that will be easy to take immediate action in? Which will be the most challenging to tackle? Why?	