

creativity  
fluency

# Quickstart Skills Guide





## About This Guide

These guides are designed by the Global Digital Citizen Foundation to help you gain a better understanding of the **21st Century Fluencies** and how they work.

This guide contains a description of the stages of Creativity Fluency, as well as a perspective on the skills each stage develops and why they are important for our students—and *everyone*—to learn.

We hope this information will help you with the development of the Fluencies as you work to infuse them into your students' learning experiences.





# creativity fluency

Creativity Fluency is the process by which artistic proficiency adds meaning through design, art, and storytelling. It is about using innovative design to add value to the function of a product through the form. The process of Creativity Fluency is defined by the 5Is.



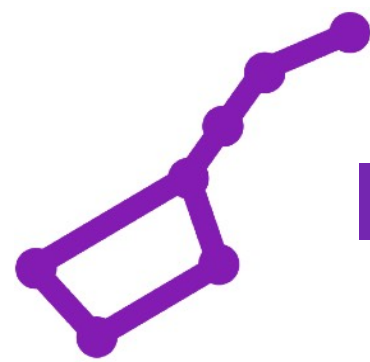
## Identify

This involves distinguishing the elements and the criteria of the desired outcome. It's about figuring out what you need to create and what limitations or restrictions you face.



## Inspire

In this next stage, the adventure begins by stimulating your creativity with rich sensory input. This involves any action, encounter, or lively conversation that fires your imagination.



## Interpolate

Interpolate means to find a structured pattern within known information. This is all about “connecting the dots” in the search for clear patterns and higher level abstractions within the sensory input.



## Imagine

This is the ultimate synthesis between the previous stages of Inspire and Interpolate. The unification of these stages results in the birth of your idea—your “Aha!” moment.



## Inspect

With our new creative idea now a reality, we ask ourselves questions about the effectiveness and feasibility of the new idea, and if it can be accomplished within an existing timeframe and budget.





## IDENTIFY Skills

This involves distinguishing the elements and the criteria of the desired outcome. It's about figuring out what you need to create and what limitations or restrictions you face.



## Understanding the problem

- Gives the problem the proper context
- Makes searching for data/information easier and more focused
- Eliminates the dangers of “flying blind”
- Leads to hearing unique perspectives from others



## Identifying key words

- Helps you identify and verbalize the desired outcome
- You can better understand the purpose of your quest for an idea by using keywords
- Helps you narrow down your search for inspirational elements



## Forming keyword questions

- Asking good questions promotes critical thinking and a deeper understanding of your creative wishes
- You discover surprising things about an idea you didn't know before
- It guides you in exploring the keywords for sources of inspiration





## IDENTIFY Skills

This involves distinguishing the elements and the criteria of the desired outcome. It's about figuring out what you need to create and what limitations or restrictions you face.



## Brainstorming and lateral thinking

- Brainstorming lets you examine your desired outcome from multiple angles and viewpoints
- Lateral thinking is an indirect and creative approach that helps you turn problems into opportunities
- Generating ideas and opinions is an important part of the creative process



## Understanding ethical issues

- Develops thinking habits based on empathy and compassion
- Urges us to consider the far-reaching effects of a problem or issue
- Guides us towards creating solutions that are ethical in nature
- Lets us empathize with other professional, creative, or cultural viewpoints



## Listening deeply, viewing wisely, and speaking critically

- These are habits of mind that develop exceptional communication skills
- Encourages consideration of an idea from various viewpoints, and guards against bias
- Leads to working towards creating something that benefits everyone
- Incorporates a broad understanding of human nature and behaviour



## IDENTIFY Skills

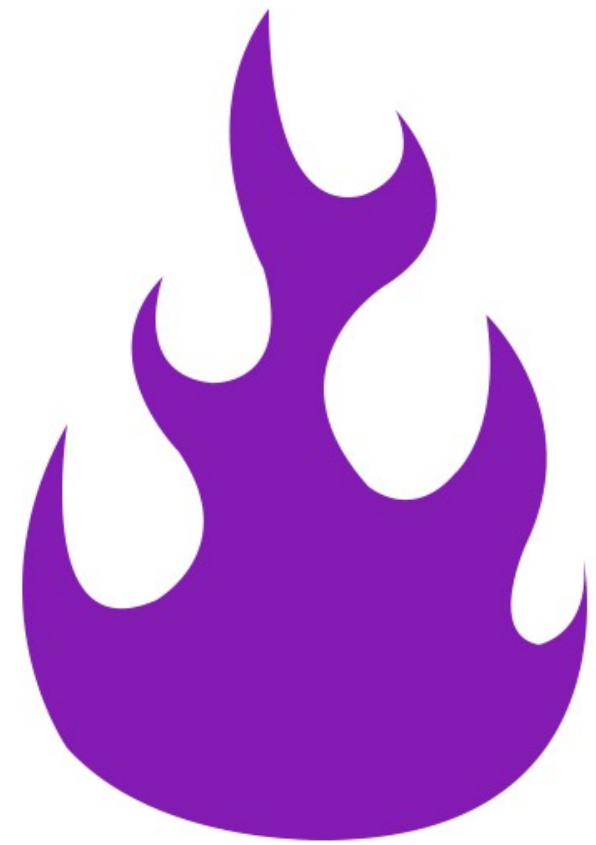
This involves distinguishing the elements and the criteria of the desired outcome. It's about figuring out what you need to create and what limitations or restrictions you face.



## Sharing personal knowledge and experience

- Lets you share expertise and experience that can be valuable to the success of your creative idea
- With this kind of sharing, everybody teaches and everybody learns
- Develops communication and a willingness to be open without fear of judgement or ridicule in a supportive environment
- Lets us empathize with other professional, creative, or cultural viewpoints





## INSPIRE Skills

In this next stage, the adventure begins with stimulating your creativity through rich sensory input. This involves any action, encounter, or lively conversation that fires your imagination.



### Moving beyond what is known

- You invite in new experiences to enrich your mind
- Introduces you to new ideas, opinions, and perceptions
- Teaches you to never be afraid of what you don't know
- You can discover hidden talents and abilities you didn't know you had



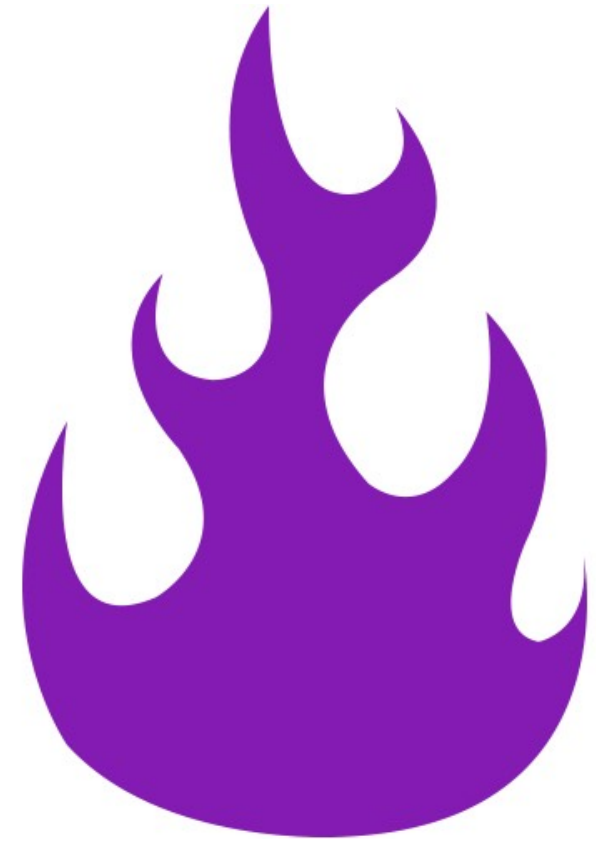
### Using familiar and unfamiliar sources

- You can learn new abilities in seeking inspiration that can aid you on other projects and challenges
- Having a list of familiar sources provides a sense of comfort, and allows you to prepare for the unfamiliar with confidence
- Broadens your awareness of new media and how it appeals to different people in different ways



### Seeing new possibilities

- You begin to see more than one outcome and solution
- Helps you to see current outcomes from different perspectives
- As you discover more and more possible journeys, you become more invested in the process of solidifying your idea
- Conditions you to constantly strive for a vision and never give up



## INSPIRE Skills

In this next stage, the adventure begins with stimulating your creativity through rich sensory input. This involves any action, encounter, or lively conversation that fires your imagination.



## Playing with ideas

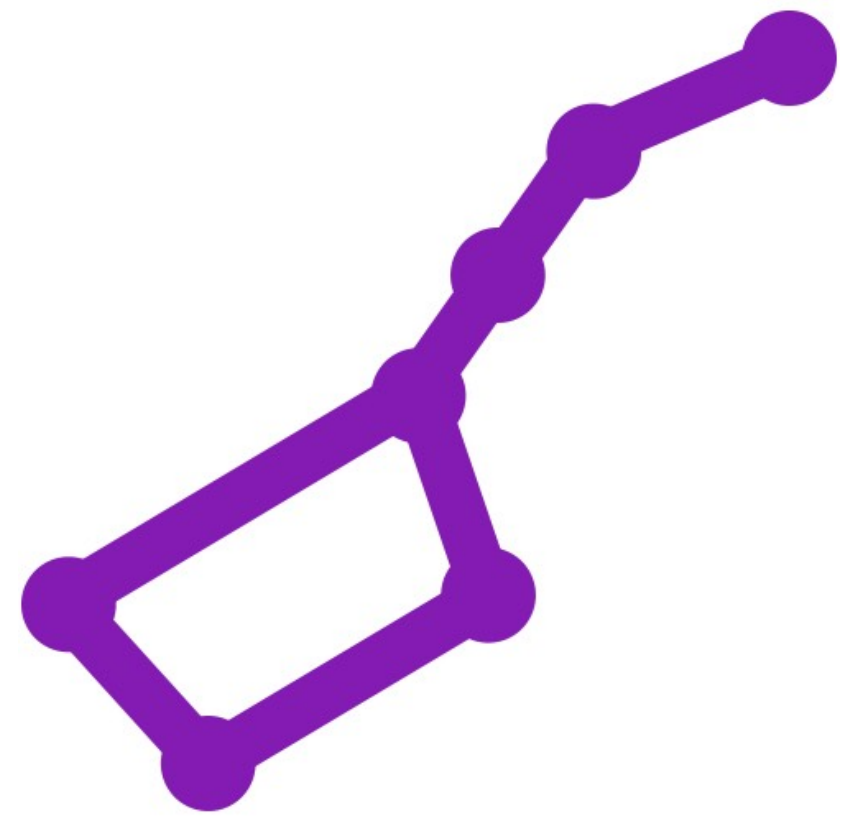
- Play and playfulness are at the very heart of creativity
- Encourages you to be as fearless with ideas as when you were a child
- Has a positive effect on the emotions and keeps the brain healthy
- Helps to form new neural connections
- Teaches you to be fearless and limitless with your creative process



## Experimenting and imagining

- Imagining is an expression of our true inner desires and hopes for the intended outcome
- Experimenting with ideas and mediums is in tandem with creative play, which opens up new paths for learning and discovering
- Gives you a chance to predict both the successful and the potentially flawed outcomes





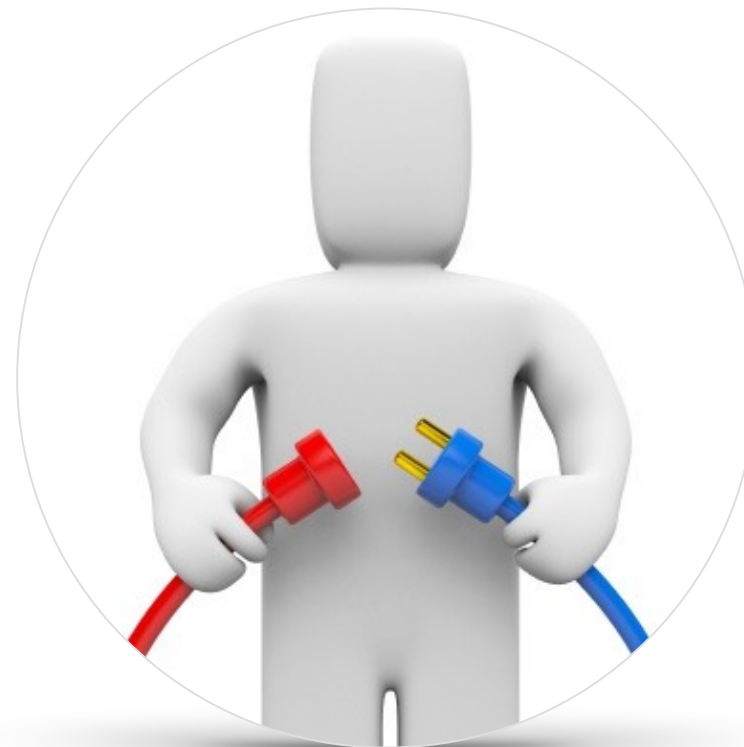
## INTERPOLATE Skills

Interpolate is all about finding structured patterns within known information. You “connect the dots” in a search for clear patterns and higher level abstractions within the sensory input.



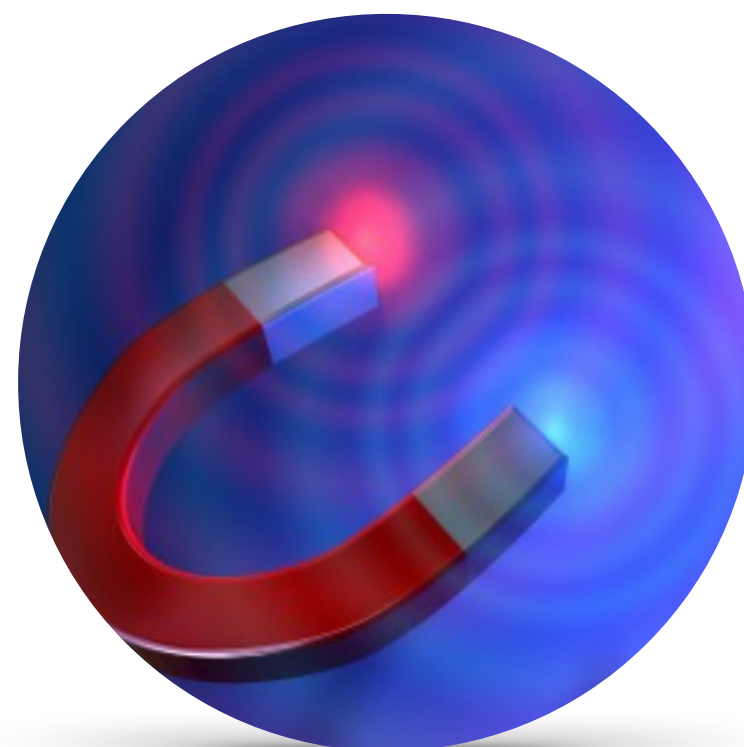
## Pattern recognition

- Allows us to predict what could happen next or what might be revealed next in a logical progression
- Trains you to use your senses and compare new experiences with previous ones to see how new experiences can be used
- Helps us to make decisions intelligently



## Identifying connections/relationships

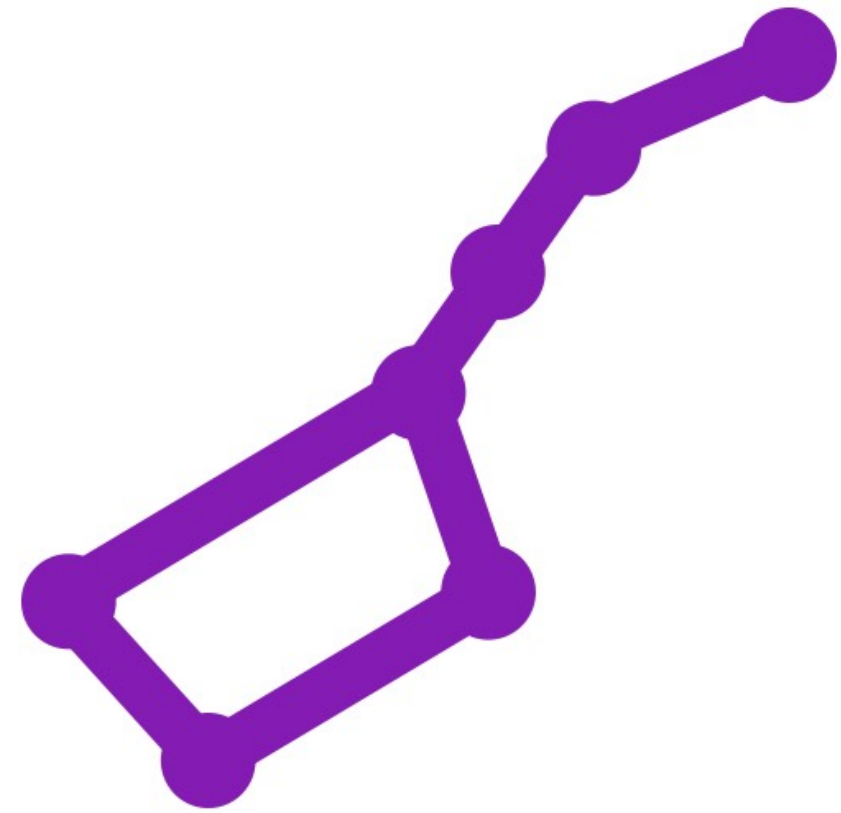
- Allows you to make connections to prior experiences and apply them to new ideas
- Recognizing connections in different concepts and ideas helps us determine what made them effective
- Helps to structure thought processes for gaining further inspiration and developing new ideas



## Combining opposing concepts/elements

- Forms new ideas, experiences, and possibilities
- Engages critical thinking skills by putting together unrelated elements or concepts harmoniously
- Personal success is often fuelled by integrating opposing ideas for the purpose of forming new and better ones





## INTERPOLATE Skills

Interpolate is all about finding structured patterns within known information. You “connect the dots” in a search for clear patterns and higher level abstractions within the sensory input.



## Thinking laterally about existing knowledge

- Lateral thinking is an indirect and creative approach that helps you discover unique solutions and possibilities
- Trains you to see the familiar in a new way, which can spark creative ideas
- Frees you from limited thinking, and allows you to work in a mental space in which there is always a solution or answer





## IMAGINE Skills

This is the ultimate synthesis between the previous stages of Inspire and Interpolate. Here, the unification of these past stages results in the birth of your idea—your “Aha!” moment.



### Forming mental images/sensations/concepts

- With this skill, you create with elements that are not perceived through your sight, hearing, or other senses
- Exercises your imagination and pushes your creative potential
- Encourages you to move beyond the restrictions of your senses while still drawing on your personal experiences with them



### Giving meaning to experiences

- Involves recalling past experiences and articulating them in your creation
- Makes the idea or concept you're working with personally valuable
- Lets you put both your heart and spirit into what you create as well as your mind
- Your enthusiasm for the creative process affects others in a positive way



### Constructing with creative mediums

- Puts you in a “director’s chair” so you can create and synthesize your vision freely
- Allows you to work with different creative mediums (storytelling, art and graphical design, music, poetry, video, etc.)
- Shows you the creative results of your efforts, and helps you to develop a sense of accomplishment and responsibility





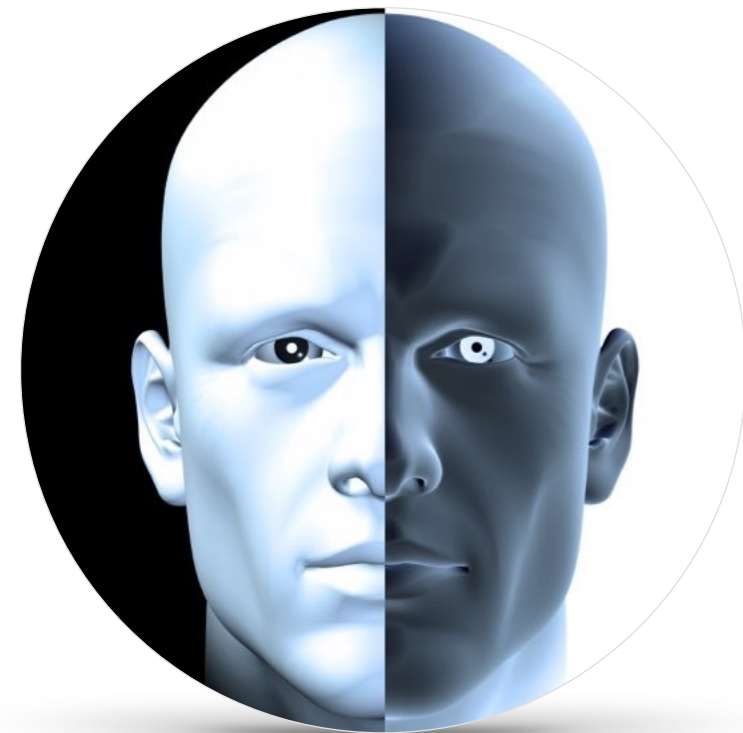
## INSPECT Skills

With our new creative idea now a reality, we ask questions about the effectiveness and feasibility of the new idea, and if it can be accomplished within an existing timeframe and budget.



## Examining the product and the process

- Lets you recognize how your idea actually addresses the challenge
- Leads you to re-examine some of the steps you took to determine where you could have made better choices
- Gives you insight into the importance of the creative process, and also demonstrates how any creation starts with an idea



## Comparing/contrasting with the original purpose

- Allows you to see if your idea answers the questions that led you to begin the creative journey
- Gives rise to new concepts and ideas to apply to the same challenge or to other similar challenges
- Reminds you why the product and process are relevant and meaningful



## Internalizing and applying the new idea

- Utilizing new learning is the only way to make it stick—the more you practice this process, the more unconscious or "fluent" it becomes
- Gives you a chance to see how the new idea can be applied to similar situations and circumstances
- Allows you to consider the time and budgetary implications of the idea





## INSPECT Skills

With our new creative idea now a reality, we ask questions about the effectiveness and feasibility of the new idea, and if it can be accomplished within an existing timeframe and budget.



## Re-examining/revising the idea

- Gives you a fresh look at how an idea could be improved or enhanced
- Shows that Creativity Fluency, like other fluencies, is a cyclical process
- Revising an idea lets you discover the limits of its potential and then to exceed them
- Gives birth to new creative ideas and concepts





# A companion you can count on.

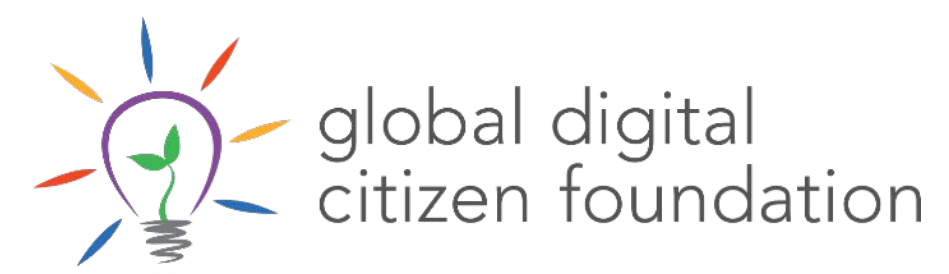
If you enjoyed the free quickstart guide, we know you'll love this. This premium guide has everything in the free guide, **plus**:

- A Fluency Snapshot tool for quick assessment
- 6 exciting project-based learning scenarios
- A full rubric framework for assessing Creativity Fluency
- Resources for understanding and instruction

## Get a Lot for a Little.

This premium resource and others are available when you **upgrade to a Teacher Professional Plan** or a **School Plan** on the Solution Fluency Activity Planner. It's a whole lot more for a little bit extra.

Visit [solutionfluency.com](https://solutionfluency.com) for more information, or **log in and upgrade** your account today.



Please feel free to print or distribute this publication electronically as long as you do not modify it in any way or charge for it.

