

Critical Thinking

with
Garfield Gini-Newman



This learning guide is intended
to be used after viewing the video clip:
[Background Knowledge: A Closer Look
with Garfield Gini-Newman](#)

This Learning Guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders or as a self-paced study to explore how critical thinking can support student success.

Lesson synopsis

In this short video clip, Garfield Gini-Newman discusses how all students need to be engaged in building background knowledge.

Key understandings:

- Background knowledge includes prior knowledge that students bring into the class as well as knowledge they gain while responding to rich critical thinking tasks.
- We need to differentiate instruction because different students come to a task with different amounts of background knowledge.
- There are ways of tweaking our lessons so students actively engage in building background knowledge instead of passively receiving it.

Questions for discussion:

- What are some ways you support your students in building their background knowledge?
- Thinking about the students you work with, what could you do to differentiate the way they build their background knowledge about a particular topic?

For more information:

[Cross-Curricular Competencies](#)

- [Know how to learn](#)
- [Think critically](#)
- [Apply multiple literacies](#)

[The Critical Thinking Consortium
Engaging All Learners - Support for
Implementation](#)

Acknowledgement:

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