

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.

## Critical Thinking

with  
Garfield Gini-Newman



This learning guide is intended to be used after viewing the video clip:  
[Linking Creativity and Critical Thinking with Garfield Gini-Newman](#)

## Lesson synopsis

In this short video clip, Garfield Gini-Newman discusses the relationship between critical and creative thinking.

### Key understandings:

- From a neuroscience perspective, the same part of the brain is firing during creative and critical thinking. Critical and creative thinking work together.
- There are two steps in creativity:
  - Fluency – generation of new ideas
  - Merit – making decisions about the usefulness of the ideas
- It is important to give all students the tools to engage in creative endeavors.

### Questions for discussion:

- Do you agree with Garfield's point that creative thinking cannot be separated from critical thinking? Why or why not?
- From your own experience, share an example where students used both critical and creative thinking to do a challenging task.
- How will this discussion of creative thinking affect your classroom practice?

### For more information:

#### [Cross-Curricular Competencies](#)

- [Innovate, create, generate and apply new ideas or concepts](#)
- [Create opportunities through play, imagination, reflection, negotiation and competition, with an entrepreneurial spirit](#)

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

#### Acknowledgement:

This guide was developed through a collaboration between Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium and The Critical Thinking Consortium (TC<sup>2</sup>). It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons license.

