

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:

[Using Critical Thinking to Choreograph Project Based Learning with Garfield Gini-Newman](#)

## Lesson synopsis

In this short video clip, Garfield Gini-Newman discusses conditions that are important for problem-based and project-based learning to be successful.

### Key understandings:

- Students often need support to avoid becoming overwhelmed and lost during project-based learning.
- Project-based learning can be successful when teachers:
  - frame the project with a problem that invites thinking and innovation
  - choreograph student learning by consciously helping students build the intellectual tools they need

### Questions for discussion:

- What might be the implications for teaching and learning if you were to reframe the task, “Use three internet sources to learn about the symbols of democracy in the Alberta Legislature” as a problem, “Determine the three most powerful symbols of democracy in the Alberta Legislature”?
- In what ways does Garfield’s metaphor of “choreographing the learning” help distinguish this approach from “sage on the stage” and “guide on the side”? How might seeing yourself as a “choreographer of learning” change your teaching?

### For more information:

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

- [Know how to learn](#)
- [Think critically](#)
- [Identify and solve complex problems](#)
- [Innovate, create, generate and apply new ideas or concepts](#)

[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.

