

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:  
[Critical Thinking in Action: Example Lessons with Garfield Gini-Newman](#)

## Lesson synopsis

In this short video clip, Garfield Gini-Newman shows how a primary science and a secondary history lesson can be framed to invite critical thinking.

### Key understandings:

- Through the simple tweak of asking students to rank a list of ideas and explain their ranking, we can transform a brainstorming activity into a task that invites critical thinking.
- Putting a thinking challenge up front allows students to continually revisit their ideas as they learn new content.
- Inviting students to decode a song or other items from popular culture can be an engaging way to build background knowledge.

### Questions for discussion:

- Give an example of where you might ask students to rank a list rather than simply brainstorming it.
- Thinking about your practice, can you identify an opportunity for using a song or other piece of pop culture as a way of inviting students to build background knowledge?

### For more information:

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

- [Know how to learn](#)
- [Think critically](#)
- [Identify and solve complex problems](#)
- [Manage information](#)
- [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.

