



10 Questions for Future-Ready Learners

It's important for students to feel successful and have experiences that help prepare them for college and careers. Use these discussion prompts to help students envision their futures and map a path toward their chosen goals.

1 What are you passionate about?

Introduce your students to career options and help them facilitate work-based learning experiences.

- ▶ Encourage them to complete several internships or shadowing opportunities to help determine their passion and purpose.



2 Are you earning college credit or job certificates?

Not all students benefit from college expectations at home, making it harder for them to visualize college and career success.

- ▶ Encourage students to get a jump start for future success while they're still in high school.



3 How are you involved in your community?

Completing an individual or team-based service learning project will promote leadership and community connection.

- ▶ Find ways to help students get involved in their neighborhood or city community.



4 What are you building or creating?

Visual and performing arts and maker ed play an important role in student growth while also preparing them for a new economy that requires creative solutions to challenging problems.

- ▶ Find out which motivates your student more and help create or seek out opportunities to get creative.



5 What problem do you want to solve?

Students will need critical thinking and other skills to be capable of design thinking, coding, robotics, and various maker initiatives.

- ▶ Require students to demonstrate various problem-solving skills and versatility when faced with routine and unconventional challenges.



6 How are you sharing your ideas?

Students should develop digital literacy skills so they can create and share blogs, videos, newsletters, and other multimedia communications.

- ▶ Create projects or assignments that require multiple types of publishing and research.



7 What language do you want to learn and become proficient in?

In a global economy, students must know how to communicate, understand multiple points of view, and collaborate with a diverse group of colleagues.

- ▶ Connect your student to resources, a mentor, or teacher who can help them with their language skills.



8 Do you work well with others?

Students must be equipped with the skills to communicate and collaborate to achieve a shared goal.

- ▶ Encourage your students to document their contribution to team efforts and help build their digital portfolio and skill set.



9 What skills do you have to manage projects and deliverables?

Whether working in a large organization or self-employed, students will be managing multiple projects after leaving school.

- ▶ Find ways to give students an opportunity to demonstrate management of a multi-step project to completion with a public presentation.



10 What steps are you taking toward personal wellness?

Sports teams and clubs help youth develop healthy habits and positive team experiences. Happy students have better educational outcomes and sustain healthier connections with family, peers, and communities.

- ▶ Help find sustainable routines and healthy living habits for each student.



+ Bonus Question: Have you heard about AI?

If we're really thinking about the future, we must talk about artificial intelligence (AI). AI will have a huge impact on the lives and livelihoods of this generation and can connect to every unit of study.

- ▶ Encourage students to explore the ethical, moral, and economic issues raised around the widespread possibilities of artificial intelligence.



Inspire future-ready learners

When having conversations with your students about upcoming assignments or projects, remind them that you want them to be:

- ✓ Ready for whatever job or career they want to pursue
- ✓ Comfortable learning and leading in different environments
- ✓ Confident in their skills and abilities
- ✓ Prepared for success in an adult environment
- ✓ Convinced they can succeed because they've done so before

Giving students these powerful experiences today will teach them valuable lessons for tomorrow.

