Prensky’s Five Skills Framework
for Problem-Solving

The Goal: To be able to follow one’s passion(s) as far as one’s abilities allow

In order to do that, no matter what the future brings, individuals must master the following skills:

1. **Figuring Out the right thing to do**
   a. Identifying problems
   b. Behaving ethically
   c. Thinking critically
   d. Making good decisions and judgments
   e. Setting Goals

2. **Getting it done**
   a. Planning
   b. Analyzing
   c. Self-directing
   d. Self-assessing
   e. Iterating

3. **Working with others**
   a. Taking leadership
   b. Working with individuals and groups (especially using technology)
   c. Communicating/interacting with machines (= “programming”)
   d. Communicating/interacting with a world audience
   e. Communicating/interacting across cultures

4. **Doing it creatively**
   a. Adapting
   b. Thinking creatively
   c. Tinkering and designing
   d. Playing
   e. Finding your voice

5. **Continually doing it better**
   a. Reflecting
   b. Being proactive
   c. Taking prudent risks
   d. Thinking long-term
   e. Constantly improving through learning

*Note: Many of these terms and ideas derive from, and build on, Stephen Covey’s Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. ‘Tinkering’ is from John Seeley Brown.*