

# Communication



a 21st Century Learning Skill

## The Skill of Communication Defined:

- Articulating thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively through speaking and writing

**Classroom Application:** The following are practical ways that the 21st Century Learning Skill of Communication can be integrated into the content areas. These examples come from the P21 Content Area Curriculum maps. The full maps for each are available at [www.p21.org](http://www.p21.org). Over time, we will add more of our own activities and lessons as we develop them.

## Communication in the Social Studies Classroom:

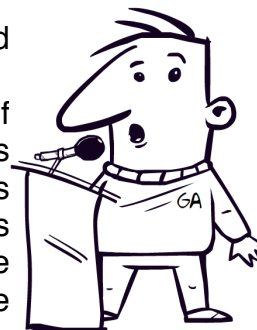
- **Student Learning Standard (Outcome):** Interpret, organize and present information from American history in clear, complete and effective formats to other students/ adults.
- **Example - Summarize and Record Learning on a Class Blog:** Research information on an issue relevant to an historical period (e.g., a determining factor in the outcome of the American revolution or the inevitability of the Civil war) and organize it into a persuasive essay that is to be proof-read, peer edited, and finally written and summarized in a class blog and/or audio podcast.

## Communication in the Math Classroom:

- **Student Learning Standard (Outcome):** Students articulate mathematical thoughts and ideas using oral and written communication skills. Using abstract and quantitative reasoning with attention to precision, they construct viable arguments and analyze others' reasoning.
- **Example - Research and Analyze Pricing Models:** Working in small groups, students compare the cost of buying a hybrid versus a non-hybrid car. Students research pricing and fuel miles-per-gallon estimates for comparable models of hybrids and non-hybrids. They factor in average local gas prices over x years. Using their knowledge of linear functions, students then analyze the overall cost of the hybrid versus the non-hybrid vehicle over x number of years, using assumptions regarding the average price of gas and how many miles the car will be driven each year. Students analyze how changing the number of years or number of miles to be driven would affect the outcome. Each group presents its results and conclusions to the class.

## Communication in the English Classroom:

- **Student Learning Standard (Outcome):** Articulate thoughts clearly and effectively through writing.
- **Example - Blog Tracking and Analysis:** Students follow a variety of blogs written on topics of personal interest, posting their own comments as appropriate. After following these blogs for a period of time, students write a reflection on their online experience, how they found the blogs they were following, the differences in tone, content, and expertise between these blogs, the insights gained from these blogs, and their role in the community.



### Communication in the Science Classroom:

- **Student Learning Standard (Outcome):** Students model the practices of research science by informing others about their work, developing effective explanations, constructing and defending reasoned arguments, and responding appropriately to critical comments about their explanations.
- **Example - Peer Critique of School or District Electronic Journaling:** Students produce a school or district-wide electronic journal to communicate work they are doing in their science classes on a specific unit or topic. Students develop criteria for peer review and critique each other's work, modeling the process for professional journals.

### Communication in the Musical Arts Classroom:

- **Student Learning Standard (Outcome):** Students will communicate in a variety of contexts through a variety of artistic media, including technologies, to convey their own ideas and to interpret the ideas of others
- **Example - Multimedia Analysis of Composers Methodology:** Students examine how composers, artists, choreographers, and playwrights use the arts to communicate particular ideas, themes, or concepts (such as relationships, overcoming obstacles, optimism vs. pessimism), and to evoke particular emotions or feelings (joy, sadness, tension, relaxation) in the listener or viewer. They analyze and compare these devices and develop multimedia presentations illustrating how such communication occurs through each of the arts disciplines.

### Communication in the World Languages Classroom:

- **Student Learning Standard (Outcome):** Students in the novice range (1-3 years experience) are able to comprehend and use short memorized phrases and sentences.
- **Example - Restaurant Menu Analysis:** Students read several authentic menus and identify which would be appropriate for different people based on likes/dislikes and special dietary needs.
- **Student Learning Standard (Outcome):** Students in the intermediate range (4-5 years experience) are able to express their own thoughts, provide descriptions, and communicate about familiar topics using sentences and strings of sentences.
- **Example - Restaurant Reviews:** Students work in groups to research local restaurants and produce restaurant reviews in the target language. They map the restaurants on internet maps and give directions to the restaurants in the language.



**Looking For More Examples?** [Click here](#) for links to all the P21 curriculum maps for each content area. Each map has dozens of examples and tips to help us on this journey.