

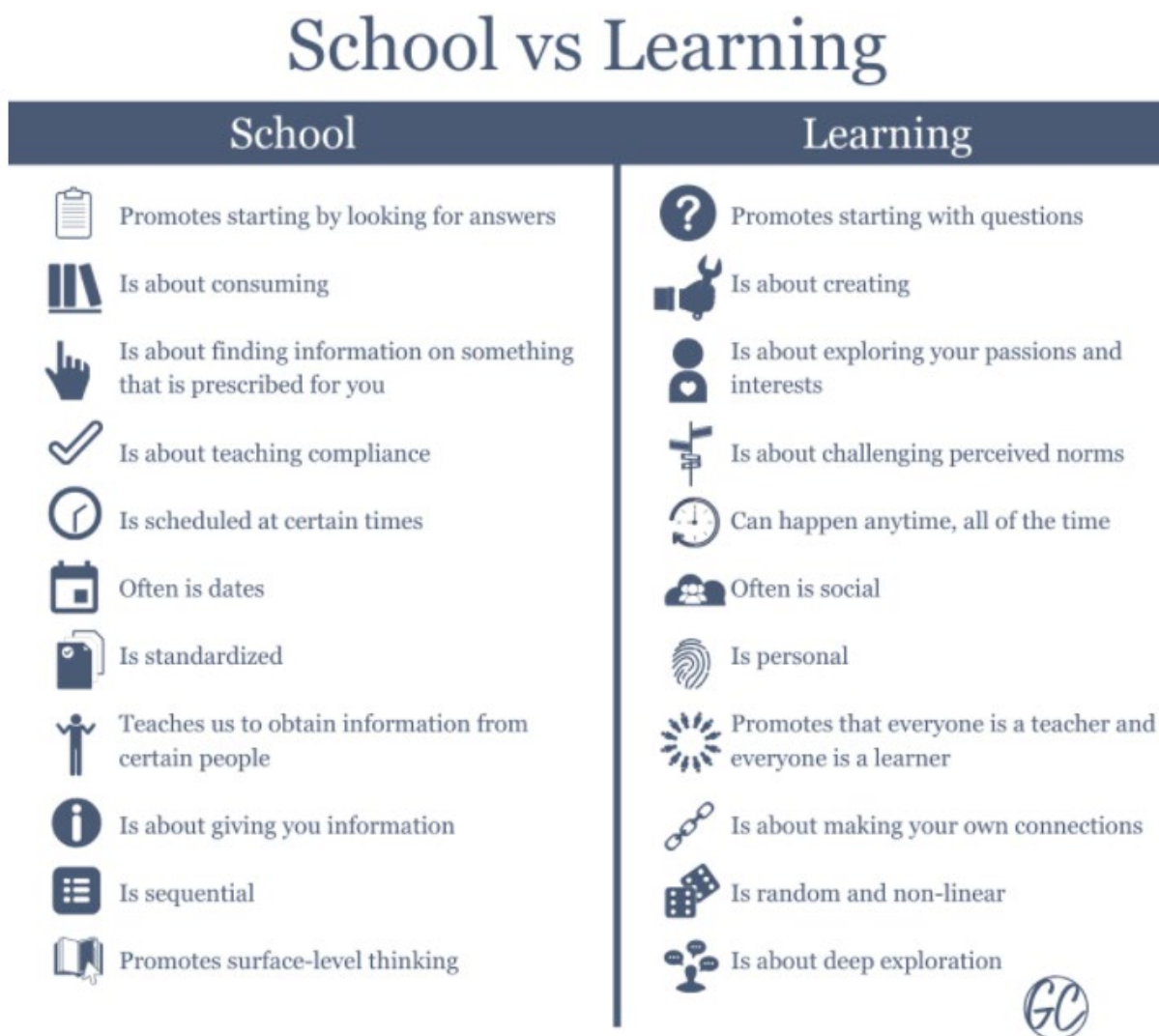
George Couros from “What are the ‘basics’ in education today?” (<https://georgecouros.ca/blog/archives/13094>)

When we talk about “learning” are we talking about the ability to do well in school or the ability to learn?

To some, it might seem like a false dichotomy, but here is the way that I see it; if you help students become great learners, they will be fine in school. But if you focus on students doing well in school, this doesn’t necessarily mean they will become good learners.

I bring this up because often, when you look at research on “learning in schools,” the effectiveness is based on how anything impacts grades, scores, etc. “Being a great learner” is much harder to measure than “being good at school.” The skills aren’t necessarily the same.

I use this image to promote this discussion, and it is not an “either/or,” but it is meant to really think about what our end goals are for education:



Many organizations and individual educators have done a great job to move the needle in this area, but it is not about one or the other. For example, consumption was the norm in school when I was a student, and creation was done at a minimal level. Consumption is an important skill, but what do learners create with what they know?