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## Portrait of a Learner Community Feedback Survey Winter 2025 - 90 Responses

### Summary

The feedback provided on the five mindsets—Effective Communicator, Team Player, Empathetic Citizen, Resilient Learner, and Critical Thinker—reflects a general consensus on their importance in personal and professional development. Participants emphasized the significance of active listening, adaptability, empathy, resilience, and critical thinking as essential competencies. While most responses were positive, some participants suggested improvements, such as reducing redundancy in competencies and clarifying language for better understanding. The sentiment was largely supportive, with participants recognizing the value of these mindsets in fostering effective communication, teamwork, empathy, resilience, and critical thinking.

### Categories

**Effective Communication:** Participants highlighted the importance of active listening and adapting communication to the audience's needs. There was a strong emphasis on the necessity of articulating thoughts clearly through various mediums, including digital platforms. Some feedback suggested combining similar competencies to streamline the mindset and incorporating media literacy skills.

**Teamwork and Collaboration:** The perception of being a team player was seen as crucial, with participants valuing the balance between personal and group goals. The importance of taking responsibility for actions and supporting team decisions was noted, although some felt the "We before me" concept might need refinement to avoid promoting conformity over individual truth.

**Empathy and Inclusivity:** Empathy was viewed as a vital component of citizenship, with participants stressing the need for inclusivity and respect for diversity. Suggestions included refining the language to better capture the essence of empathy and considering the addition of equity as a competency.

**Resilience and Adaptability:** Resilience was recognized as essential for personal growth, with participants appreciating the focus on lifelong learning and adaptability. Feedback suggested simplifying competencies to emphasize core ideas like growth mindset, adaptability, and self-reflection.

**Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Critical thinking was seen as fundamental, with participants appreciating the emphasis on curiosity and problem-solving. Some suggested removing redundant competencies and incorporating media analysis skills to enhance the mindset.



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Q1: Provide feedback on the Mindset 1: Effective Communicator and the following competencies: (1) Seeks to understand, (2) Adapts to the needs of the audience, (3) Articulates thoughts through written, oral, and non-verbal skills, (4) Employs active listening skills, (5) Develops a responsible digital footprint, and (6) Shares thoughts through written, oral, and non-verbal skills

Summary: The feedback highlights the importance of active listening, adapting to audience needs, and articulating thoughts through various communication forms. Several respondents noted the redundancy between competencies #3 and #6, suggesting they be combined. The responsible digital footprint (#5) was seen as crucial but somewhat distinct from other competencies. Some feedback emphasized the need for clarity on certain terms and suggested incorporating media literacy. Overall, the responses underscore the significance of effective communication skills for leadership and relationship-building, with a focus on understanding, adaptability, and responsible digital engagement.

Q2: Provide feedback on the Mindset 2: Team Player and the following competencies: (1) Balances personal goals with group goals, (2) Values the contributions of others, (3) Works cohesively towards a common goal, (4) Owns team decisions, (5) Takes responsibility for actions, (6) We before me.

Summary: The feedback on Mindset 2: Team Player highlights the importance of balancing personal and group goals, valuing diverse perspectives, and taking responsibility for actions. While many agree on the significance of these competencies, some express concerns about the "We before Me" concept, viewing it as potentially redundant or misleading. Suggestions include incorporating empathy, conflict resolution, and the ability to question group decisions respectfully. The need for accountability and collaboration is emphasized, with some recommending a focus on top competencies and reconsidering the phrasing to avoid clichés. Overall, the mindset is seen as crucial for effective teamwork and leadership.



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Q3: Provide feedback on the Mindset 3: Empathetic Citizen and the following competencies: (1) Develops a responsible digital citizenship, (2) Respects diversity and fosters inclusivity, (3) Advocates for self and others, (4) Seeks to understand and includes all, (5) Demonstrates care and compassion for others, and (6) Respects diversity.

Summary: The feedback highlights several key points regarding the Mindset 3: Empathetic Citizen and its competencies. There is a noted overlap between competencies 2 and 6, both addressing diversity, suggesting redundancy. Some responses emphasize the importance of empathy, advocating for others, and understanding diverse perspectives as crucial qualities. Concerns are raised about the clarity and language of the competencies, with suggestions to refine terms like "responsible digital citizenship" and "inclusivity." The need for a more concise and prioritized list of competencies is suggested, with some advocating for a focus on self-control and effective communication. Overall, the feedback calls for clearer definitions and a streamlined approach.

Q4: Provide feedback on the Mindset 4: Resilient Learner and the following competencies: (1) Adaptable, (2) Lifelong learner, (3) Responds productively to feedback, praise, failures, and criticism, (4) Reflects in their own personal journey to improve, (5) Accepts and adapts to challenges, and (6) Embraces failure to move forward.

Summary: The feedback on the Mindset 4: Resilient Learner highlights the importance of adaptability, lifelong learning, and responding productively to feedback and setbacks. Many respondents emphasize the overlap between competencies, suggesting fewer, more concise categories. Embracing failure is seen as integral to growth, with a focus on self-reflection and continuous learning. Some suggest incorporating courage and a commitment to excellence. Overall, the competencies are praised for fostering resilience, adaptability, and a passion for learning, though some call for clearer language and simplification. The mindset is valued for its role in personal and professional development.



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Q5: Provide feedback on the Mindset 5: Critical Thinker and the following competencies: (1) Identifies, defines, and solves problems, (2) Collects, assesses, and analyzes relevant information to challenge ideas, (3) Understands how decisions impact other parts of a system, (4) Challenges ideas and seeks solutions, (5) Thinks outside the box, and (6) Displays curiosity.

Summary: The feedback on Mindset 5: Critical Thinker highlights the importance of identifying and solving problems, analyzing information, and understanding systemic impacts. Respondents emphasize curiosity as crucial for learning, while some suggest refining competencies to address complexity and nuance. Critiques include the overuse of phrases like "thinks outside the box" and the need for character development alongside critical thinking. Suggestions include incorporating media analysis skills and fostering open-mindedness. Overall, the mindset is valued for promoting problem-solving and lifelong success, though some language may be perceived as jargon-heavy.