

## Howard Gardner's 5 Minds for the Future

A belief that we should not just describe the mind but prescribe it—to *shape* the future. Is our curricula preparing students for the past or for the future? *“With these ‘minds,’ as I refer to them, a person will be well equipped to deal with what is expected, as well as what cannot be anticipated; without these minds, a person will be at the mercy of forces that he or she can’t understand, let alone control.”*

Disciplined: They will need to be experts (body of knowledge and key procedures) in at least one area/discipline. It takes up to ten years to master a discipline, craft, profession. This mind also knows how to work steadily over time to improve skill and understanding.

Synthesizing: They will need to be able to gather together information from disparate sources, evaluates the information objectively, and put it together in ways that work for themselves and can be communicated to others.

Creating: Anything that can be formulated as rules will be done as well by computers. Rewards will go to the creators—those who think outside the box. This mind puts forth new ideas, poses unfamiliar questions, conjures up fresh ways of thinking, arrives at unexpected answers. This includes little *c* and big *C*.

Valuing Diversity: They will need to respect those who differ from as well as those who are similar to themselves. They try to understand others on their own terms and seek to work effectively with them.

Ethical: They will need to think beyond their own self-interest and to do what is right under the circumstances. They are characterized by adherence to a set of principles and concerned with their obligations.