

Unit 2: Activity 2 **Answer Key**

(Skills that are classified as 21st Century skills bolded. Read the explanations to help you review).

- having strong grammar and spelling skills at all times vs. **having okay grammar and spelling skills but being able to use a dictionary, Word Processing spelling and grammar check, peers, and other information skills to edit and revise a written piece**

Explanation: Effective writing communication skills are a cornerstone of 21st century skills. In addition, 21st century skills place an emphasis on being able to find information (use of a dictionary, spell check, etc.), editing and revising. Collaboration is also a key part of 21st century skills; teachers and students alike must recognize that all individuals have their strengths and weaknesses but being able to work together to compensate for those weaknesses is an important skills.

- **working with other people to design and/or implement a project and taking responsibility for a couple aspects of the project while constantly asking for feedback from peers to improve project and providing progress reports** vs. working with other people but doing most of the work in isolation

Explanation: In looking at this assigned reading, <http://www.careerkey.org/pdf/The%20Foundation%20Skills.pdf>, you see that social skills (which can also be classified as collaboration) are essential in the 21st century. Students must be able to negotiate, reason, and assume leadership roles.

- reciting the Preamble to the Constitution and identifying all 7 articles and their contents vs. **referencing sections from the Constitution while explaining to a peer why its important to play an active role in government**

Explanation: The 21st century requires that citizens are critical thinkers. Knowing information is good, but being able to retrieve, evaluate, apply, etc. the information is more important. In addition, what is learned should be relevant to the students in some way. By emphasizing participation in government, the Constitution becomes a starting point for the development of the civic student.

- developing a PowerPoint Presentation on a specific assigned topic using a preset format (Slide 1: Title, Slide 2: Country, Slide 3: Culture, etc.) and set amount of images, sounds, etc. and presented to the class vs. **developing a multi-media PowerPoint Presentation on a topic connected to a central theme or idea in the core subject and then presented to the community.**

Explanation: Creating the PowerPoint requires critical thinking skills because the student must research, analyze, and apply information that is unique to the learner. In addition, students are practicing written and oral communication. 21st Century students must be able to speak clearly and articulate their stances on issues.

- reciting a portion of a Greek Play from memory vs. **having a discussion with an English teacher on how a Greek Play is a product of its time and yet is still applicable today**

Explanation: This is another good example of critical thinking. Students still study a classic piece of literature (as being able to read is an important skill) but are also required to find parallels between past and present. In addition, participation in the discussion practices oral communication skills.