

# The Learning Focus

## Project Options

Young people need a context for their work. Select an authentic focus of class activities.

**Action Focus.** What do people do? Focus on an action such as going to school, running, eating.

**Artifact Focus.** Focus on an artifact such as musical instruments, heirlooms, rocks, flowers.

**Art and Architecture Focus.** Focus on art or architecture. Explore a work of Monet or Wood.

**Autobiographical Focus.** Focus on self and family. Tell a story, conduct an interview.

**Custom Focus.** Focus on a custom or tradition particular to your family, culture, or religion.

**Document Focus.** Focus on a specific document. Consider a treaty, law, certificate, or deed.

**Event or Experience Focus.** Focus on a specific event or experience like reunions, birthdays.

**Issue Focus.** Focus on an issue. Contemplate the options and your perspectives.

**Life Focus.** Focus on plants, animals, and organisms like pets, endangered animals, viruses.

**Literature Focus.** Focus on literature including picture books, novels, short stories, and poems.

**Myth and Misconceptions Focus.** Focus on a myth, legend, or misconceptions.

**News and Information Focus.** Focus on news. What's fact and opinion? Main idea and details.

**Person or People Focus.** Focus on a particular person or group of people like Danish, veterans

**Place Focus.** Focus on a particular setting, location, or geographic feature.

**Quote Focus.** Focus on a quote, statistic, or piece of information.

**Song Focus.** Focus on a song or song lyrics.

**Symbols, Signs, and Marker Focus.** Focus on symbols, signs, or markers.

**Theory Focus.** Focus on a theory, formula, or concept.

**Value Focus.** Focus on a value, character trait, or ethical issue - respect, gratitude, prejudice

**Word Focus.** Focus on a specific word or concept. - frustrations, democracy, poverty, beauty,

## Critical and Creative Thinking

Consider ways to analyze, synthesize and evaluate information.

**Analogy Focus.** How is something like something else?

**Before/After Focus.** Before and after, now/then, one time/another time, here/there

**Cause and Effect Focus.** Cause of event, disaster, war, problem, environmental change

**Change Focus.** Seasons, adaptation, growth, health, inventions, medicine, culture, technology

**Connection Focus.** You connected to the founders of your town, piece of music or artwork.

**Comparison Focus.** Compare time periods, people, resources, or other things or ideas.

**Criticism Focus.** Critique a movie, book, play, essay, novel, scientific theory, short story, art

**Debate Focus.** Explore two sides of a topic.

**In-depth Focus.** Focus on the details and a close-up view on a topic.

**Inquiry Focus.** Search for knowledge, answer questions, and investigate interests

**Mystery Focus.** Create, document, and/or solve a problem, crime, incident, or puzzle.

**Persuasion.** Focus on an issue, argument, evidence, conclusions.

**Perspectives Focus.** Focus on a particular perspective or point of view.

**Prediction Focus.** Prediction - earthquake, weather, medical cures, garden growth, animal life

**Process Focus.** Scientific inquiry, taking a trip, creating something

**Product Focus.** Invent a new product

**Reflection Focus.** Consider how these new ideas fit into your experiences.

**Storytelling Focus.** Focus on storytelling.

**Trace or Track Focus.** Focus on tracing or tracking an idea, experience, or project.

**Wonder Focus.** Focus on wondering. Ask questions, consider connections, and explore options.