Executive Function Skills Mapped to Increasing Levels of Complex Thinking

Conscious Control (CC) **Engagement (En)** **Collaboration (C)** **Empowerment (Em)** **Efficacy (Ef)** **Leadership** (all)

Working Memory Storing and manipulating visual and verbal information (CC) Identifying same and different (En) Remembering details (CC) Following multiple steps (En) Holding on to information while considering other information (CC) Identifying cause-and-effect relationships (En) Categorizing information (En)	***Problem Solving*** Defining a problem (Ef) Analyzing (Ef) Creating mental images (Ef) Generating possible solutions (Ef) Anticipating (Ef) Predicting outcomes (Ef) Evaluating (Ef)
Cognitive Flexibility Shifting focus from one event to another (CC) Changing perspective (En) Seeing multiple sides to a situation (C) Being open to others' points of view (C) Being creative (Ef) Catching and correcting errors (Em) Thinking about multiple concepts simultaneously (En)	***Inhibitory Control*** Attending to a person or activity (CC) Focusing (CC) Concentrating (CC) Thinking before acting (CC) Initiating a task (En) Persisting in a task (En) Maintaining social appropriateness (C)
Planning Setting goals (Em) Managing time (Em) Working toward a goal (Ef) Organizing actions and thoughts (Ef) Considering future consequences in light of current action (Ef)	***Self-Awareness*** Self-assessing (Em) Overcoming temptation (C) Monitoring performance (Em) Reflecting on goals (Em) Managing conflicting thoughts (CC)
Reasoning Making hypotheses, deductions, and inferences (Ef) Applying former approaches to new situations (Ef)	

Adapted from Appendix A of *Building Executive Function: The Missing Link to Student Achievement* by Nancy Sulla, published by Routledge

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