

FIVE MINDS FOR THE FUTURE

HOWARD GARDNER

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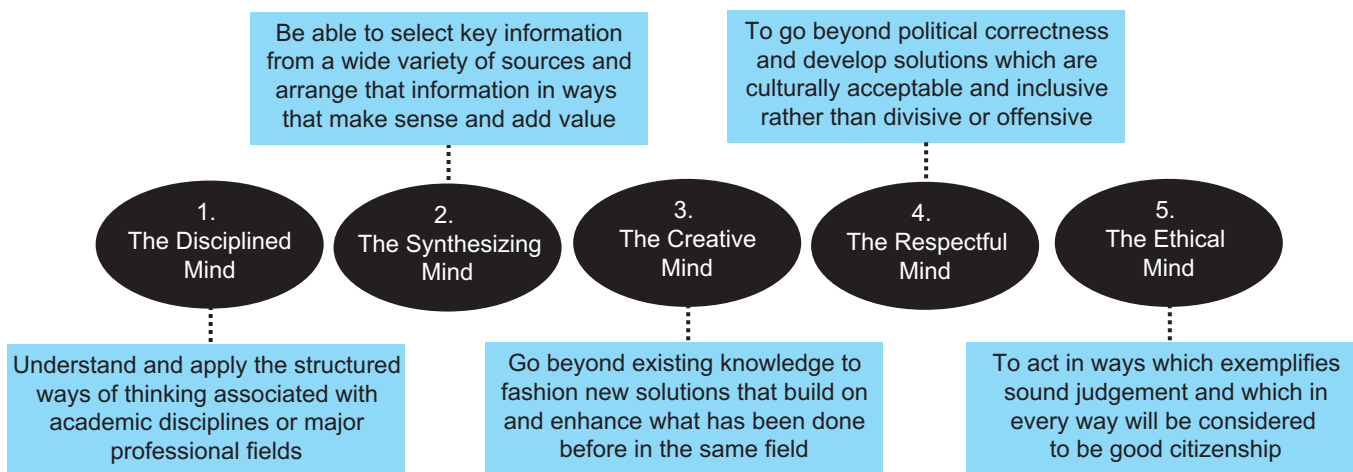
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MAIN IDEA

The marketplace of the 21-st century is certain to feature accelerating globalization, rapid increases in the amount of information which is available and stunning breakthroughs in science and technology. What will it take to succeed in that kind of world?

Irrespective of how the future will eventually unfold, there are five types of cognitive abilities or “minds” which are certain to command a premium in the years ahead:



If you plan on excelling in the future, cultivate these five very different and distinctive ways of thinking.

1. The Disciplined Mind	2. The Synthesizing Mind	3. The Creative Mind	4. The Respectful Mind	5. The Ethical Mind
<p>You have to learn to think in a disciplined manner in order to excel in the future. It usually takes about ten years to become competent in a profession or in any particular area of human expertise. Unless you actually pay that price and get up to speed in a profession, you'll always be forced to march to the beat of someone else's drum. By learning how to think and act systematically about a subject – which is what a professional education does – you position yourself to be able to move into other fields of your choice in the future.</p>	<p>With so much information now being available, the ability to synthesize or to knit together information from a variety of sources into coherent ideas is very important. Unless you learn how to do this for yourself, you're going to be overwhelmed by the flood of information which will confront you every day of your career. More and more, the job description of all kinds of jobs in the future will call for synthesis. Unless you can place the current state of knowledge in its proper context, it's very hard to come up with anything new.</p>	<p>The creative mind builds on discipline and synthesis to put forward new ideas, fresh thinking and unexpected solutions to problems. Creativity and originality have always been highly valued in business and the ability to go beyond existing boundaries and fashion ideas which stretch the boundaries of what's possible will remain highly valued in the future. It is entirely feasible in the future, those corporations which embrace innovation will outperform by a considerable margin those that do not.</p>	<p>Respect deals directly with our relations with other human beings. Nowadays, it is impossible to do business without considering how what you do impacts on others. To be respectful means you welcome differences, you try to understand where others are coming from and you attempt to work harmoniously with them. In the modern interconnected world, if you show intolerance or disrespect word will get around and your actions will come back to haunt you. You need to be worthy of respect to prosper in the future.</p>	<p>Ethics has moved to center stage with all of the corporate accounting scandals which have made the news in recent years. In simple terms, ethics is about understanding your role as a worker or as a citizen and acting accordingly. You have to act in ways which are consistent with your personal beliefs and which can withstand scrutiny should the tables be turned at some point in the future. To act ethically means for you and your organization to do all those things which will make you proud rather than hiding in a veil of ignorance.</p>

1. The Disciplined Mind	Pages 2 - 3
2. The Synthesizing Mind	Pages 3 - 4
3. The Creative Mind	Pages 5 - 6
4. The Respectful Mind	Pages 6 - 7
5. The Ethical Mind	Pages 7 - 8

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