What is Principled Innovation?

Principled Innovation is the ability to imagine new concepts, catalyze ideas, and form new solutions, guided by principles that create positive change for humanity.
This card deck is intended to generate individual and group reflection to engage character as part of our decision-making process and the way we design solutions for the dilemmas and challenges we face. Intentional reflection on our experiences contributes to the development of practical wisdom.
What’s on the Cards?

Every card features two questions, one as a “starter” question (white) to begin exploring an aspect of our character and another “deeper dive” question (color) to engage practices of Principled Innovation. They are divided and color-coded into four categories:

*Moral* • *Civic* • *Intellectual* • *Performance*
Find a code on each card that indicates which practice the question is exploring.
MORAL character guides decision-making from multiple perspectives allowing us to honestly evaluate situations and respond in a meaningful and responsible manner.

Assets include: empathy, honesty, fairness and humility
M1: Identify and acknowledge fundamental values
Distinguish the values that are important to the individuals, team, community, and learning environment and ensure that the process, structures, and solutions honor, appreciate, and reflect the identified values.

M2: Utilize moral and ethical decision making
Use a values-informed reflective process to assess possibilities, navigate dilemmas, and make the best possible choice to serve the needs of the individual, team, community, and learning environment.
CIVIC character supports a collaborative approach to solving systemic problems in order to contribute to the well-being of others and serve the public good.

Assets include: altruism, civility, perspective taking and inclusivity
C1: Understand culture and context
Use evidence-based resources, empathy, reflective questioning, and asset-based appreciative inquiry to fully understand and assess the lived and current experiences and circumstances of individuals, communities, and learning environments.

C2: Engage multiple and diverse perspectives
Seek and champion equitable and inclusive involvement and contribution to the process, including many different voices who have a variety of lived experiences, beliefs, backgrounds, and cultural wealth.
INTELLECTUAL character enables individuals to become reflective, critical thinkers who ask the right questions and seek answers from evidence-based resources.

Assets include: curiosity, reflection, truth-seeking and critical thinking
11: Develop habits of an informed systems thinker
Use evidence-based resources and data to inform flexible thinking and appreciation of emerging insights and multiple perspectives, allowing one to recognize how the individual parts are influenced by their environment and interact to form a complex whole.

12: Reflect critically and compassionately
Use a growth mindset to make meaning of experiences through contemplation and consideration of one’s thoughts, feelings, and actions and how they affect the growth, development, and identity of the individual, team, community, and learning environment.
PERFORMANCE character, when informed by intellectual, civic, and moral assets, helps us marry the quality of our actions to the strength of our convictions.

**Assets include:** creativity, courage, resilience and collaboration
**P1: Design creative solutions**
Work collaboratively and intentionally for and with the community to define and understand the problem; then generate and catalyze purposeful, innovative ideas to achieve a desired outcome that creates positive change for humanity.

**P2: Navigate uncertainty and mitigate consequences**
Guide the decision-making process through observation and reflective questioning that helps to imagine and effectively respond to the possible outcomes. Allow space for meaningful action to increase the chance for desired results and reduce the risk of harm to individuals, teams, communities, and learning environments.
A single question is often the simplest way to start a conversation.

1. Identify a topic of discussion or challenge you’re facing.
2. Each group member picks one card from the deck.
3. Participants discuss how each question relates to the identified topic/challenge.

Extend the discussion

1. Identify how your perspective on the topic or challenge shifted after using the cards.
2. Discuss the “big picture” and how your topic/challenge fits into the larger scope of your work.
Self-Reflection Journal Prompt

Personal growth occurs when we can look at a situation and find ways to reframe it.

1. Choose a card from the deck and journal about how the question applies to a professional and/or personal situation in your life.

2. Review what you wrote - has your perspective on the situation shifted? Did your response bring up any additional questions to explore?
Use questions from each character asset to help your learning experience stay human-centered.

1. Identify an area in a current project/assignment where you would like to bolster the focus on character.

2. Randomly choose one card from each of the four character assets and use the questions to reflect on the project/assignment.

3. If there are any character assets that are not represented in your learning experience, how might you intentionally integrate them?
Collaborative Meeting

Think about using questions to collaboratively address a dilemma or to jumpstart a meeting.

1. Before a meeting, look at the meeting topic or agenda to get a sense for what will be discussed.
2. Choose a card that could serve as a warm-up question to jumpstart everyone’s thinking or questions that could help engage new perspectives on a dilemma or challenge your team is facing.
3. If you are reviewing current work or launching new projects, choose a question from each asset that could spark ideas and perspectives to further your work.
Use Idea 5

Think about designing your own reflection activity. This could be for individual or group reflection as it relates to:

- Group work/collaboration
- Project goals/outcomes
- Curriculum planning and development
- Debrief event or challenge
- What else?

We’d love to hear more about the ways you’re using these cards and any activities you design! Share your ideas and experiences with our team - pi@asu.edu
What are my values?

How are my values reflected in my decisions?
How are we ensuring the intrinsic worth of people is being valued in an equitable and just way?

Does this decision conflict with my core values?
What are the consistent opportunities and practices in place that encourage the development of authentic relationships? How are we practicing love and care?
How can we support others in finding their identity and interests through every interaction?

How am I being empathetic towards myself and others?
How might I contribute to providing a safe environment to share ideas, thoughts, concerns, and viewpoints?

How does my role affect how and what people share with me?
What emotion am I feeling?

How are my emotions connected to my values in this situation?
How might I contribute in a way that is fair, equitable, and just? What do others need from me in this situation?
What is my mission or vision?

How am I aligning my choices with my mission or vision?
What other choices do we have in this situation?

Why do we believe this is the right decision?
What ethical concerns or implications exist in this decision?
What are my biases?

Do I acknowledge the bias I bring to this situation, or am I taking action to remove that bias?
Is the choice I am making affected by my biases?

What assumptions or judgments am I making?
What decisions or actions can I make to alleviate suffering?

How might others be suffering in this situation?
What actions did I take to get to know the community or context in which we are operating?
How am I taking time to build relationships?

Context respects the social need to establish partnerships do we what kinds of
What is the cultural wealth of the people in the community?

How are we moving towards culturally sustaining practices?

How are we moving from culturally responsive to culturally sustaining practices?
How are we showing compassion for others’ needs?

How might I be more compassionate in my responses?
How have we received feedback from the community about this project/decision?
What is the importance and value of service and giving back?

What service opportunities and commitments can I take to engage in action steps?
How might understanding these experiences help us to connect with each other?
Whose perspective, different from my own, do I need to solicit?

How will we learn about the socio-cultural and historical context where we plan to implement this initiative?
What opportunities have we provided to view the problem through different lenses?
Who in my network can bring a different perspective or inform this conversation?

How might I engage perspectives?
remain open to all active listening
How do my decisions affect the community or those around me?

Context around me?

Community and how to get to know the steps can I take

What actions and
What are my biases around the community in which we’re operating?
What does civility look like in practice?

How might I foster conversations and interactions and civility in my daily life?
Who will be affected by this action?

How might I confirm understanding their needs?
How am I ensuring I’m using accurate information?

How do I accurately disseminate knowledge?
How do I work with and influence stakeholders? What opportunities are available for me to lead change?
How do we encourage questioning and risk-taking?
What data or resources informed our decision?

What evidence are we seeing that the decision had a positive impact?
What information do we need before addressing systemic change?

How do we recognize multiple perspectives in systems change?
How will critical thinking about who is excluded from the current system/process start plans for improvements?

How do I think critically about who is not served by the current system/process?
How can we be transparent about our knowledge gaps or biases?

Am I claiming more than I actually know?
How might we be more resilient as an organization?
How do I amplify innovation within a group?

What are my opportunities for growth?
Do I understand how my bias or perspective may influence the approach I take? What evidence do I have to support my perspective?
Did my responses support the greater good?

How did I respond to challenges?
What might we be missing?

What opportunities will there be for critical reflection and compassionate care?
Do our institutional processes support critical thinking?

How is our team encouraged to improve our current processes?
How have I been transformed by this experience?

How might I use this experience to guide future actions?
How will we know if the innovation is effective?

What support or resources do we need to overcome the challenges of the problem?
How might we preserve what’s working well in various contexts?
How have we engaged the community in the design process?
Have we allowed ourselves to ask “What if?” in order to engage possibility thinking?

How might we take actionable steps to enact our imagined possibilities?
How are the proposed solutions a fit for the context of the community?
What steps can we take to collaborate effectively, resulting in a positive experience?

What does successful collaboration look like in this design?
How do I support and build on team members’ ideas?
How do I respond to obstacles or challenges?

What are alternative ways of approaching the situation?
What strategies am I using to respond instead of react to this idea/situation?
What does positive growth and transformation look like?

involved?

How do our decisions contribute to positive growth for everyone?
What can I as an individual do to make the situation better?

Have I fully considered the unintended consequences to the best of my ability?
How are we responding to changes, and are we remaining open minded?

How have other organizations responded in similar situations?
How did that experience help me make meaningful or meaningful change my decision making?

What is the best mistake I’ve ever made?
Have we created an environment that encourages questioning and risk-taking?

What are the risks of missed opportunities?

Inaction?
Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College

at Arizona State University
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For more information and resources, visit: principled-innovation.org
Let us know what you think!

Share your feedback and ideas with our team by emailing us at pi@asu.edu