

## Let's Inspire Young People to Reach Their Full Potential.

I appreciate your participation in my presentation!

In the following pages, you'll find the PowerPoint slides you requested.

If your community and organization need to go beyond collaboration to true consensus, let's connect. Together, we can set a **compelling community rally point** that everyone can believe in! [Find out more](#) and let's connect for a no-commitment chat about what you'd love to achieve in your community and organization.



### EMPOWER K-16 LEARNERS WITH THE SKILL TREE!

All students need vital human skills like adaptability, communication, coping, self-management, and more. The **Skill Tree** is a turnkey solution to introduce students of all ages to 21 professional skills they need for school, work and life. The motive? Their own powerful, personal competitive advantage.



[Explore the Skill Tree now](#)

Scan this QR code ►

*Sign up to get three sample Skill Tree lessons from each of our K-6, 7-12, and 13-16 curriculum tracks!*



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I appreciate and applaud your commitment to the next generation, and I hope we can stay in touch. Enjoy the PowerPoint slides!



**MARK C. PERNA**

SPEAKER | AUTHOR | CEO

Visit [MarkCPerna.com](http://MarkCPerna.com) for FREE resources and information about Mark's award-winning bestseller  
*Answering Why: Unleashing Passion, Purpose, and Performance in Younger Generations*



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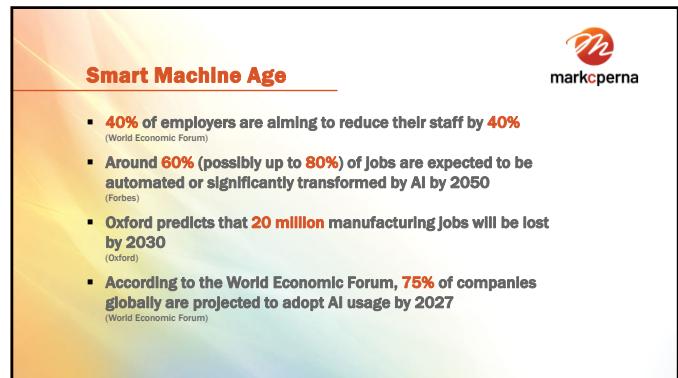


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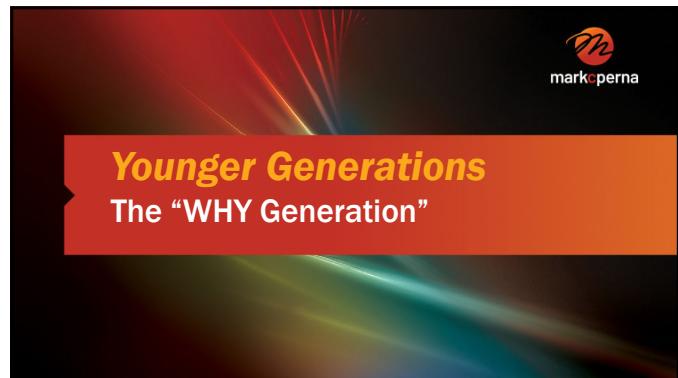
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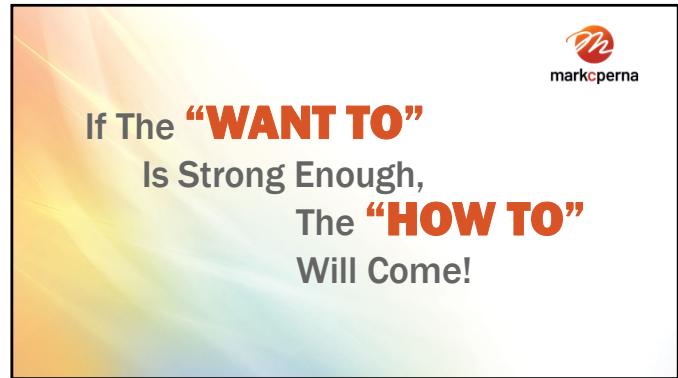
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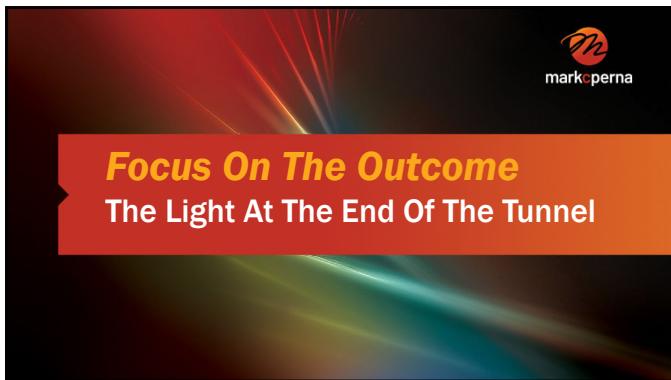


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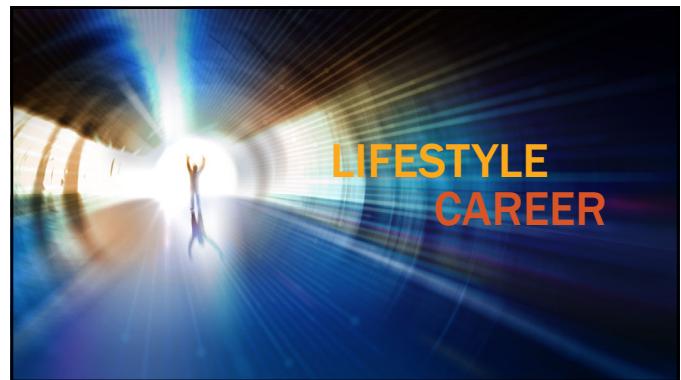


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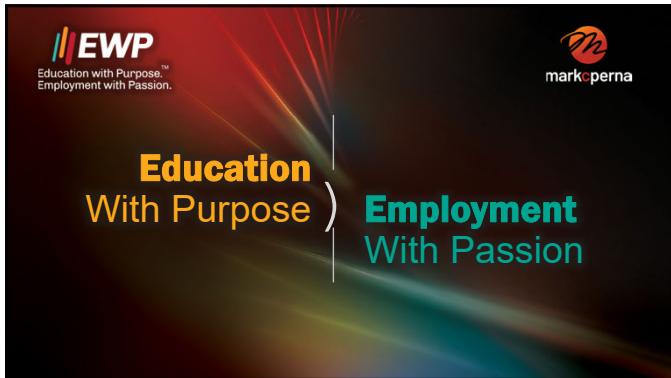
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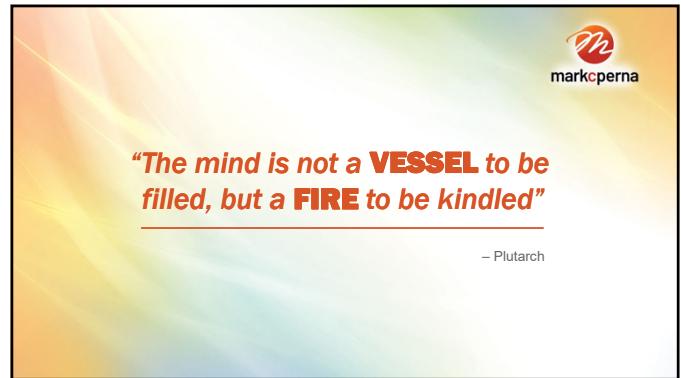
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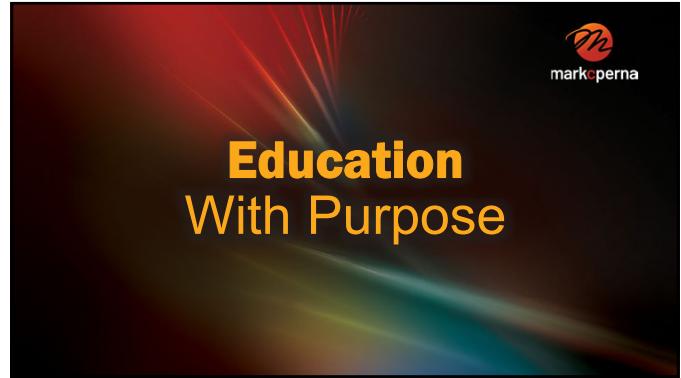
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**Georgetown University**  
Center for Education and Workforce



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Estimates **1/3<sup>rd</sup>** of nation's top-performing high school students (SAT over 1,000) **do not obtain a college degree**... and yet nearly all of them attempt college.

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**Strada-Gallup Education Network**  
College Student Survey



32,000 students representing 43 random 4-year institutions

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- Only **34%** of students believe they will graduate with the skills and knowledge to be successful in the job market and workplace
- Only **50%** believe their major will lead to a good job

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**College Completion**  
Wall Street Journal



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- 40%** of all college students drop out
- Of the 60% that earn a degree in 6 years, **20%** will end up chronically underemployed
- This means for every 5 students, **only 2** will graduate and find a job based on their degree

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**College Enrollment**  
Wall Street Journal



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- Percentage of students who enrolled in college after high school has fallen to **62%**
- 3 million** fewer students in college annually
- 2/3** of high school students think they will be just fine without a college degree

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**College Debt in America**  
As Reported by Major News Agencies



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- \$1.6 Trillion** in Total Student Loan Debt
- \$176 Billion (11%)** Over 90-Days in Default
- 44.2 Million** People Carry Student Loan Debt
- 4.86 Million** People Are Over 90-Days in Default
- 3,000 Defaults** Per Day in America

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**Etiquette Gap Among Recent College Graduates**  
Intelligent.com, Survey of Managers, Directors, and Executives Involved in Hiring



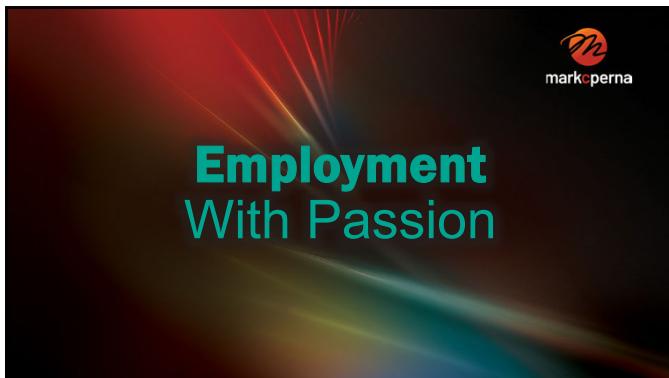
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At the Interview:

- 53%** Struggled with Good Eye Contact
- 50%** Asked for Unreasonable Compensation
- 47%** Dressed Inappropriately
- 27%** Used Inappropriate Language
- 21%** Refused to Turn On Camera During Virtual Interview
- 19%** Brought a Parent to the Interview

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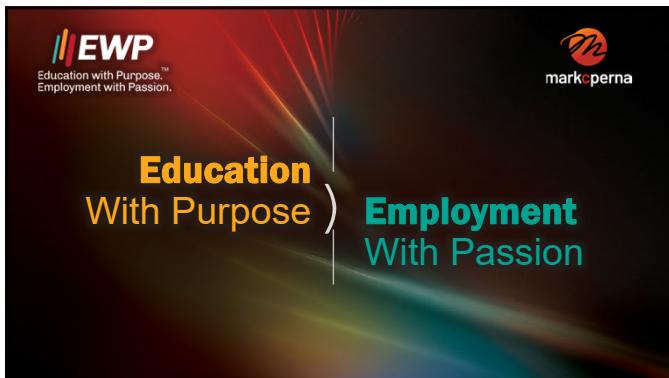
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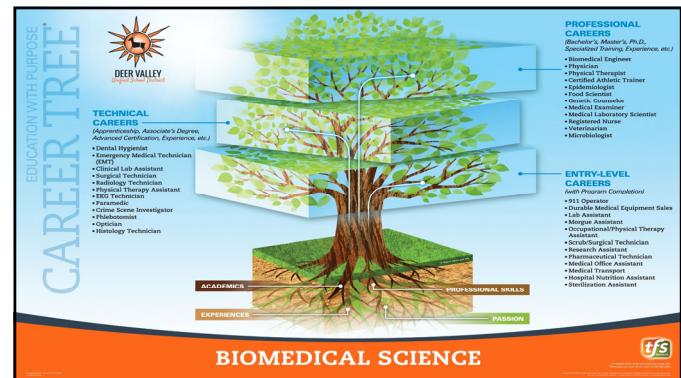
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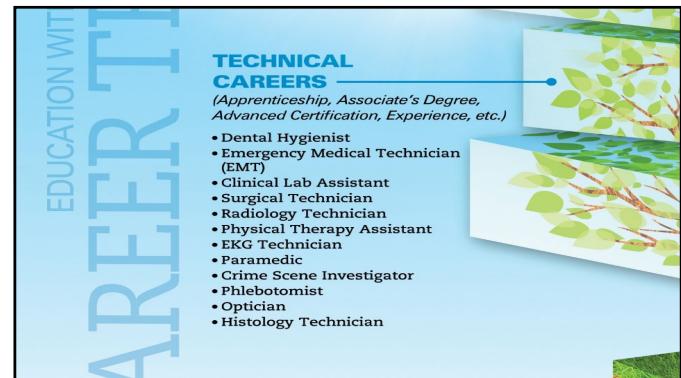
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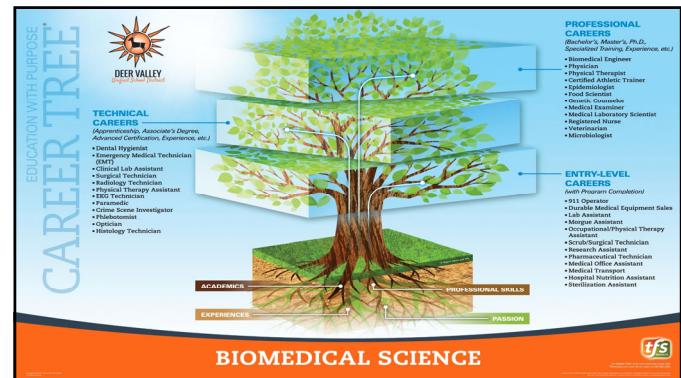


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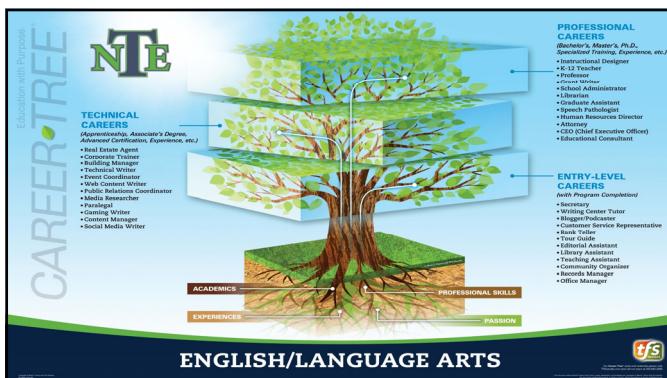
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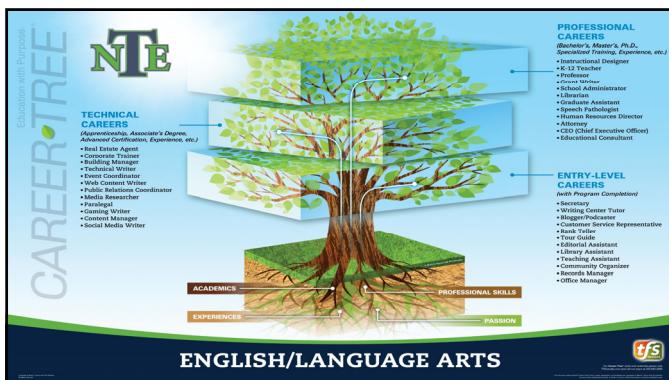


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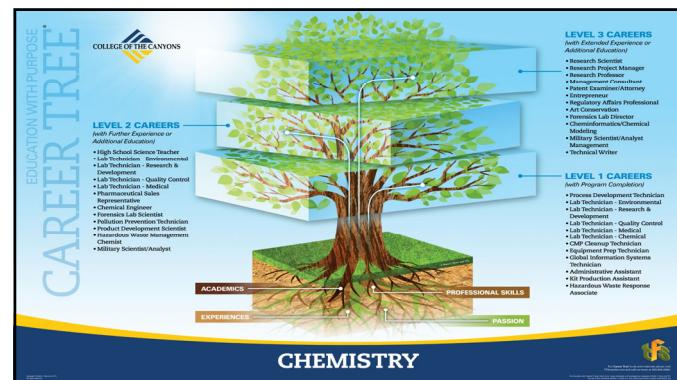


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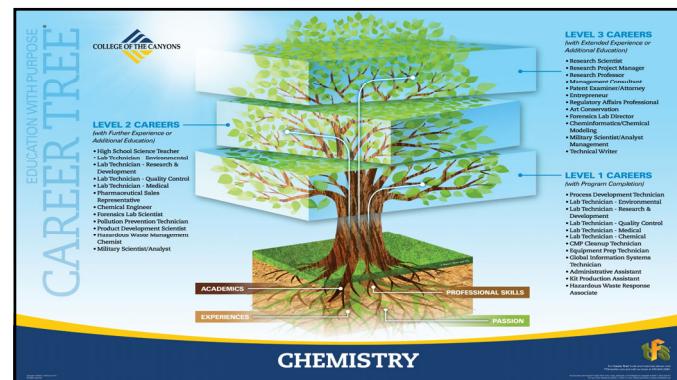
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**John Deere Davenport Works**  
Davenport, Iowa

**Manufacturing:**  
Heavy Construction & Agricultural Equipment



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**Megan**  
24 Years Old  
John Deere (5-years)

**Abilities:**  
✓ Academic Knowledge  
✓ Technical Skills  
✓ Professional Skills

**4-Year Degree:**  
Business

**College Debt:**  
\$0

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**Shifting The Paradigm**  
The CALL TO ACTION

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**Connect, Engage And Answer Why**

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**Create A Strong Message Of Purpose**

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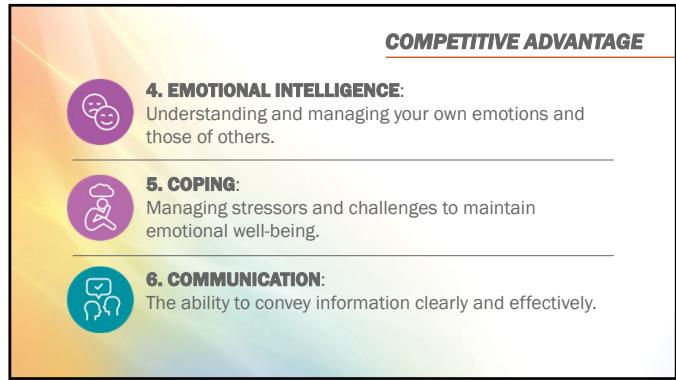
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**COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE**

**7. ACTIVE LISTENING:**  
Fully concentrating and engaging with the speaker.

**8. EMPATHY:**  
Understanding and sharing the feelings of others.

**9. LEADERSHIP:**  
Guiding and inspiring others to work towards a shared vision.

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**COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE**

**10. TEAMWORK:**  
Working well with others to achieve a common goal.

**11. ADAPTABILITY:**  
Adjusting to new conditions or changes to plans.

**12. PROBLEM-SOLVING:**  
Analyzing situations and finding solutions to challenges.

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**COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE**

**13. CRITICAL THINKING:**  
Evaluating information and arguments logically.

**14. TIME MANAGEMENT:**  
Prioritizing tasks and managing time effectively.

**15. WORK-LIFE BALANCE:**  
Fulfilling school or work responsibilities while also prioritizing personal well-being.

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**COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE**

**16. NETWORKING:**  
Building relationships and connections that help both sides.

**17. CREATIVITY:**  
Thinking outside the box to generate new ideas.

**18. PUNCTUALITY:**  
Respecting self and others by consistently being on time.

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**COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE**

**19. NEGOTIATION:**  
Reaching win-win agreements through respectful dialogue.

**20. CONFLICT RESOLUTION:**  
Navigating and resolving disagreements constructively.

**21. BULLY-PROOF:**  
Resisting, avoiding, or responding to bullying with resilience and confidence.

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**“THE MAGIC I BUILD” CHILDREN’S BOOK SERIES**



**Coming 2026**

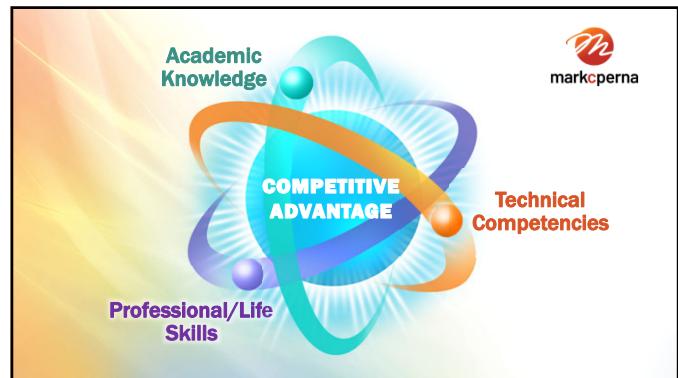
- 21 Books featuring 21 Life Skills for Young Learners
- Discussion Questions
- Journal Prompts
- Activities

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