Canada’s leading thinkers are working to reinvent how to educate young people to better prepare them to play positive roles in communities, society and the economy.

Humanities and social sciences researchers are asking bold questions about the factors that improve citizenship, beyond academic achievement. Increasingly, experiential hands-on learning, such as co-ops and internships, is giving students opportunities to acquire workplace skills that build on their academic work. Technology is being incorporated into teaching in smart ways to allow for interactive, targeted and personalized learning.

We’re looking to improve results for youth by:

- Encouraging critical thinking about our place in the world and in society
- Preparing students to be lifelong learners and problem-solvers
- Creating a broader menu of learning options, to suit all needs
- Reaching rural youth through distance and online learning
- Teaching history in ways that support Aboriginal reconciliation
- Finding the best ways to combat bullying

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At work for Canadians

Joel Westheimer, Professor in the Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa

One of Dr. Westheimer’s core research questions is: What should our schools teach young people about being a citizen? Answering this question is helping researchers focus on how schools can achieve their core mission of teaching a curriculum while also shaping students as active citizens.

Susanne Lajoie, Professor in the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, McGill University

Dr. Lajoie designs and assesses new technologies that support learning and training to solve complex real-world problems. By studying how people learn and retain information, Lajoie and her team design innovative, intelligent, computer-based learning environments for high school math and science classrooms and for university medical schools.