



TEACHER GUIDANCE

Innovative thinking journal and Moments that made us poster

GETTING STARTED

Taking the time to pause and reflect on work helps us to learn from our successes and our failures and improve. For students, it's an important way to develop their metacognition skills too – understanding their own learning process and building strategies to work effectively. The EEF Toolkit shows metacognition interventions have very high impact (up to 7 months additional progress for learners).

Reflection is vital in engineering – where failure is prized, and innovation often comes from taking things apart and understanding why they don't work. The JLR Create Possible Innovative thinking journal and Moments that made us poster aim to share learnings from the workplace through tips and processes used by JLR to help students 'think like an engineer'.

AT A GLANCE

AGE

11-14 year olds

TIME

- Flexible – 10-15 minutes in class or for students to complete at home (journalling)
- 30+ minutes – poster task

RESOURCES

- Innovative thinking journal [PDF] – to be used digitally or printed (1 per student)
- Moments that made us poster [PDF] – to be printed (1 per class)
- Poster template [PDF] – to be printed (1 per student or team)

MATERIALS

- Pen/pencil
- Laptop/tablet to view resources if used digitally

EMPLOYABILITY LINKS

- Foundational and transferable skills for all jobs and careers
- Understanding how to reflect on work completed
- Building resilience and adaptability

HOW TO USE THE RESOURCE

The **journal** gives them a structure to consider what went well, difficulties they faced, achievements, and how they will refine or iterate their work. It also includes insight into why reflecting is so important and tips on how to do it meaningfully. It has been designed to be a flexible structure that you can use with any piece of work.

The **poster** celebrates the importance of being resilient and reflective by highlighting important moments in the history of JLR – and how sometimes breakthroughs come in unexpected places and led to the exceptional. Use this as a reminder of the importance of trying new things and being adaptable and flexible.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Build critical thinking and self-reflection skills by analysing work retrospectively
- Understand a cyclical style of learning where they're constantly experimenting and problem-solving through their work and assignments
- See how improvement is innovation and why this mindset is important for both their education and future careers
- Link self-expression and individuality to exceptional work: bring to life how each young person's unique journey, skills, and experiences (even failures) can be their superpower enabling them to achieve the exceptional



ACTIVITY GUIDANCE

Innovative thinking journal

- Before your students get started independently, introduce the idea of reflection and journaling to your students so they go into the assignment with a clear understanding of its purpose. For instance, explain to students why reflecting on both what went well and what could be improved is important and something that employers value.
- Before they journal: Discussion questions
 - How comfortable are you with reflecting?
 - How do you normally reflect on work?
 - Do you find anything about it difficult? What?
- After they journal: Discussion questions
 - How did reflecting make them feel?
 - How were the prompt questions useful?
 - Why was following each step in order easier than jumping straight to the end?
 - Invite them to share any takeaways they are comfortable with from their journal. Is there anything they'd do differently next time?
- The most important thing is to build a continuous habit of reflection. Encourage your students to use the same process as often as they find helpful, and after significant pieces of work or things they find difficult. If you can, build in regular time for journaling.

Moments that made us poster

- Before your students start designing their own reflection poster, show the JLR Moments that made us poster to your students. Ask your students to read through the stories being told and to consider either individually or discuss as a group what can be learned from these stories.
- Use the below prompt questions to discuss with your students:
 - What are the key moments highlighted in the Moments that made us poster?
 - Which of the moments surprised you the most?
 - How do you think these moments have impacted the individuals involved and the company as a whole?
 - How do these stories inspire you in terms of your future career or personal goals?

Go deeper: After students have discussed, provide the blank poster template and ask them to complete the template with moments of their own. There are two ways this could work:

- **Team task:** Divide students into teams and ask them to pick a company, people they admire, or sector to research (for example, the company behind their favourite social media platform, a sports person they admire, or breakthroughs in fashion). Ask them to identify the key moments that made that company or person successful, and how they ensured those moments led to success. Once they have completed the posters, ask them to share back with the class.
- **Individual task:** Ask students to create a poster representing important moments in their life they learned something from. Make sure they pick something they are comfortable sharing – for example, discovering a new hobby, moving home, or discovering a new favourite band. Ask them to capture those stories in just a few images and words and how they would explain their importance to



SUPPORTING YOUR CURRICULUM

Design & technology

Encourage students to briefly note what inspired their design or technology work, the challenges they faced, and how they overcame them. They should also reflect on what went well and how their projects changed from their initial plan.

Chemistry lab report

Using the Innovative thinking journal, students can summarize their experiment, the hypothesis, key findings, and any unexpected results. They should reflect challenges encountered they encountered, what they were able to uncover and achieve, and how they can improve their methodology in future experiments.

Creative or drama performance

The Innovative thinking journal isn't just for STEM. Encourage students to reflect on an art piece, drama performance or music if they play an instrument. The same process will help them identify what went well and what they can continue to progress.

Group projects

Use the Moments that made us poster and template poster as a learning exercise following a group project by asking students to reflect on their group dynamics, including communication and teamwork. They should note what worked well, any conflicts or challenges they faced, and how they each contributed to the project. Encourage them to think about how they can improve collaboration in future group work.