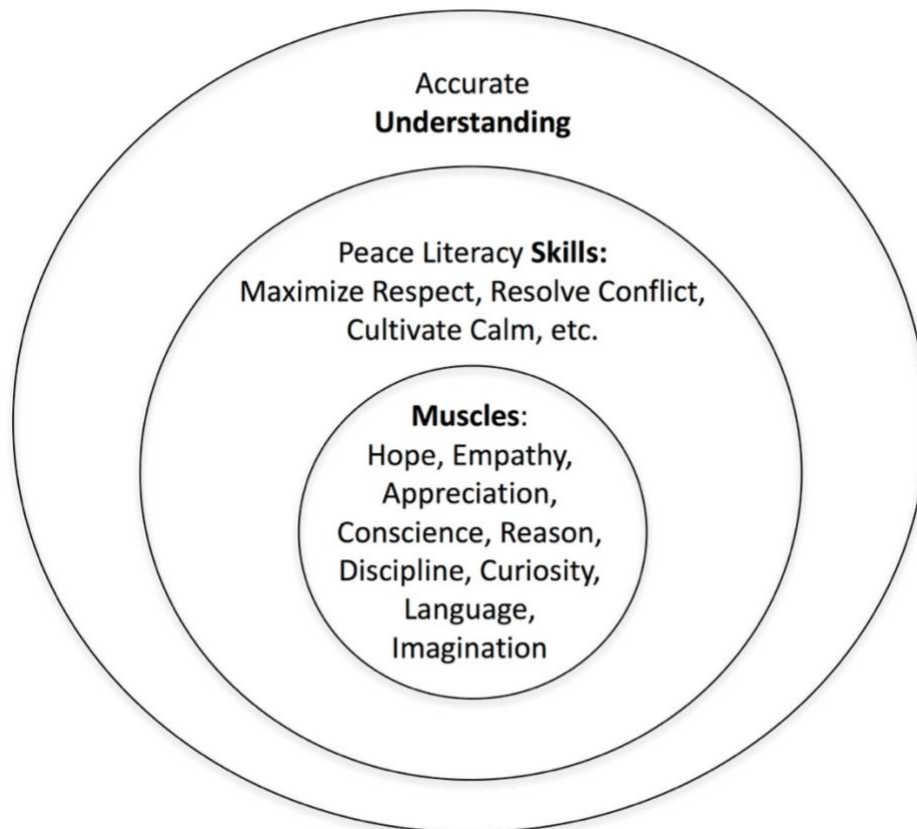


Peace Literacy 6: How to Make Good Decisions and Take Effective Actions

The ancient Greek word “metis” can mean good decisions, effective actions, discernment, forethought, skill, awareness, wisdom, and courage. However, we need to recognize that metis comes in degrees. The diagram below depicts all the components of metis that must come together if we are to solve the root causes of problems and promote peace, justice, and all forms of wellbeing. Aristotle would call this fullest form of metis “phronesis” or practical wisdom.

The Anatomy of Metis



Just as language is a faculty that can be developed and strengthened—similar to a muscle—hope, empathy, appreciation, conscience, reason, discipline, curiosity, and imagination are also faculties that can be developed and strengthened. These metaphorical **muscles**, along with peace literacy **skills** and accurate **understanding**, are areas of potential growth. By teaching Peace Literacy, educators can help students grow in these three areas, ratcheting up the metis needed to navigate a world of increasing technological complexity.