Tanya and Anjali

Tanya and Anjali, two friends in the same sixth-grade class, have just received an assignment: to create a digital product to show what they have learned about geometric shapes. Their approaches to the task reflect two different kinds of learners, one who successfully manages her own learning, and another who could benefit from instruction in self-direction and problem-solving skills.

Tanya decides to make a presentation because she's made lots of them and thinks it will be pretty easy to do. She immediately goes to a classroom computer and starts to create a presentation with an online tool. She loses Internet connectivity after just a few minutes and gets frustrated. She goes to ask the teacher for help, but the teacher is busy with other students and promises to help Tanya as soon as she can. When the teacher finally asks Tanya what's wrong, she says, "The Internet is down," but can't really explain anything more about her problem. Her teacher suggests closing and re-opening the browser or restarting the computer.

Meanwhile before going to a computer to start the assignment, Anjali asks a friend if he has time to brainstorm ideas. From their discussion, both Anjali and her classmate get good ideas for their projects. Anjali decides to make a Web site because she hasn't created a Web site before, and she set a goal earlier in the year to try new kinds of technology. She uses an online tool to develop a project plan with the tasks she needs to complete and short-term and long-term goals. The online tool has a companion app that she has on her phone that will set up reminders of upcoming due dates. She can easily modify her plan if she needs to according to her progress. While Anjali is working on her project plan, she has trouble with Internet connectivity. Unlike Tanya, Anjali troubleshoots the issue independently. She closes and re-opens her browser. When that doesn't solve the problem, she reboots her computer. When she logs in after restarting, the connection is fine, so she finishes her plan.

Anjali has the self-management skills that make her successful in school and will serve her well throughout her life.

- Goal setting
- Time management
- Project planning
- Resource management
- Technology troubleshooting

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