

Growth Mindset Thinkers

Video: Growth Mindset in the Classroom

(JO BOALER:) To me growth mindset means that you always think you can learn anything. And if you stumble or fail, you feel that that's just more challenge and I'm just going to keep going. As an educator, if you're teaching through a growth mindset -- I have a book about this called "Mathematical Minds" and it's about teaching for growth mindset. And as an educator if you're doing that, it's very important -- the key things are to give, like, open, more growth mathematics questions, which we have many on our website and the book. And then to be telling students, "I don't care about speed." Speed is not important. I say to my undergraduate math class, "If you're quick at finishing this, I'm actually less impressed because I want to see depth. It means to me you haven't gone into depth. And I want to see creativity and ..." So we have to get rid of that idea about speed. And then tell kids, "Failure and struggle are good. That's when your brain is growing the most." If you're not struggling, then your brain is not growing to the extent that it could be. So we want to give kids these messages. Go into depth, struggle, and give them, really, beautiful math tasks that they're going to enjoy doing that with. And those have to be carefully chosen; you can't just throw kids into a task that they have no access points for. Where they'll struggle to the point of saying, "I just can't do this; this is --" you know, "it's just unachievable for me." You have to give them -- the tasks we use, everybody can start. They're deliberately designed to be, kind of, low [INAUDIBLE] for everyone. But then they go to really high levels, which -- and those are the perfect math tasks.