Growth Mindset Close Reading Articles User Guide

Why?

These articles are written at a lexile band ranging from 950-1100 for the purpose of Close Reading, academic discussions, and Socratic Seminars.
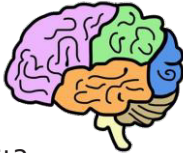
Changing our mindsets and developing into self-directed, adept learners is no small task! It is a journey that many people struggle with even in adulthood. These articles share great strategies and ways of thinking with students so that they can learn how to be more effective and engaged learners. In the articles, students will explore various dimensions of a growth mindset, grit, and goal-setting.

How?

➢ Provide copies of an article to all students so that they can annotate, highlight, and respond in the margins as they participate in a Close Reading of the text.

➢ Use the Close Reading bookmarks and academic discussions table tents to engage in the reading process. (Approaching, Questioning, and Analyzing a text)

➢ The texts have labeled paragraphs and a wide right margin to facilitate academic discussions and give students space for recording their thinking. Teachers can read students' annotations to "see" their thinking on paper. Remind students that great readers are made, not born. Good readers work very hard while they are reading to make meaning of a text. They read and re-read. They ask questions, and they argue with a text.

➢ These are great texts to practice with because they also send a strong growth mindset message (You can grow your intelligence!) and also provide some concrete strategies and life skills for students to learn how to take control of their own learning process.

Can You Measure A Person's Intelligence?

A   In some schools there are programs that only a few kids get to be in. Sometimes they call it GATE[1], sometimes Enrichment or Advanced lessons. Why do some students get this opportunity and some don't?

B   Often, to qualify, students included in the advanced programs are tested. Sometimes it's based on their state scores or they are given an I.Q. test [2]for this purpose. How do schools know that these tests will give them accurate information about their students? Let's learn a little about I.Q. tests and then you can be the judge.

C   Author of the first I.Q. test, Alfred Binet was a French psychologist (1857-1911) who was interested in the concept of human intelligence. He was asked to help French public schools determine which students needed a special learning environment since French laws had recently made it mandatory for all children to go to school. He and a partner created the Binet-Simon scale to measure the child's "mental age." This tool was supposed to help schools design lessons that allowed all of the French children to learn by informing their teachers about what the student knew already. This scale eventually became the I.Q. Test we know today.

D   Even though he wrote the scale, Binet spoke out about the limitations of it. He insisted that intelligence is variable[3], meaning that intelligence changes all the time. His objective with the scale was to advocate for education for ALL children. But when the scale came to the USA in 1908, it was brought by a man named H. H. Goddard who was interested in promoting the idea that some races were superior to others. The test began to be used to give people a score for their intelligence, as if it were something we can measure.[4]

E   If intelligence changes, then how can we measure it? An I.Q. score is kind of like a driver's license that says your weight; your weight can change all the time! What if you lose or gain weight? Now your number license is wrong. Also the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) is reluctant to change your weight on your driver's license. In the same way, how can we measure intelligence and give people a score? What if you learn more? What if a person thinks they are smart and stops learning? What if the school is reluctant to change your score when you learn more?

F   The truth is, it is impossible to measure what a person is going to do. We can make predictions based on the past, but humans have an amazing capacity for growing. Do you want to let a test define your intelligence?

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[1] GATE: Gifted and Talented Education

[2] I.Q. test: Intelligence Quotient test. This test asks a series of questions to attempt to measure a person's intelligence as compared to other people.

[3] **variable**: **capable of being changed, or alterable**

[4] Siegler, R. S. (1992). The other Alfred Binet. *Developmental Psychology, 28*, 179-190.

About Mindset Works

Mindset Works was co-founded by one of the world's leading researchers in the field of motivation, Stanford University professor Carol S. Dweck, Ph.D. and K-12 mindset expert Lisa S. Blackwell, Ph.D. The team translates psychological research into practical programs and services to help students and educators increase their motivation and achievement.
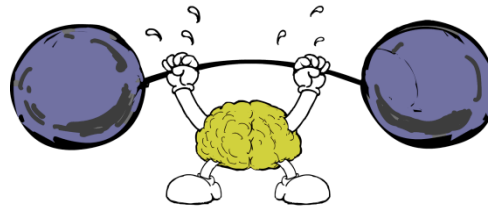
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