



Risk - Taking & Perseverance

Try these strategies to cultivate a culture of risk-taking and perseverance.

Start with the End

Help students get into the flow with this strategy for activating their sense of inquiry. Take a problem that you want students to solve at the end of class, and give it to them at the beginning. Have students collaboratively work to construct a method of solving the issue. By playing with and puzzling over ideas, students develop a passion for problem-solving.

Change the Conversation

Teach students that success is controllable by praising controllable characteristics. With this strategy, praise progress and effort instead of talent and achievement. Instead of saying, "You're so talented at science," say, "I can tell you've really worked hard to learn a lot about science!"

Mistake of the Day

Some teachers say mistakes are okay. Do one better: use this strategy to teach that mistakes are awesome! Celebrate mistakes as a learning opportunity by having students nominate one mistake that really helped the class understand something more clearly. Collect your class' favorites and display them on a bulletin board or in the hall!

Genius Hour

Real passion is long-lasting. Help students persist in their passions by allowing them to choose a project to work on for one hour a week. The most important part of this strategy is making sure that they follow the project all the way through to completion—teach them that true passion doesn't give up!

Homework They Love

Allow students to replace some homework assignments with equally challenging work on topics they love. If your student is a proficient mathematician and doesn't need extra math practice, don't make them do it. Instead, use the opportunity to encourage them to design a project on something that interests them. For instance, have them write an opinion piece on a current event they care about, or about which car is the coolest!

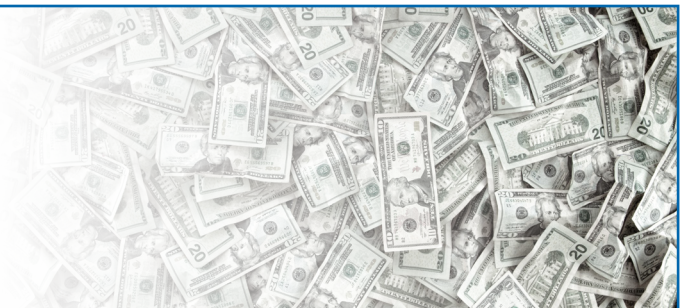
Impossible is Nothing

Want to get your students to practice persistent problem-solving? Pin a twenty dollar bill to the wall. Then, offer to give it to the first student who solves a particular challenge. Here's the twist: make sure the challenge is impossible. For example, have students build a perpetual motion machine, or a two-sided polygon. As they explore and experiment with different ways to win the money, they learn to become fascinated by poking and prodding at problems. Make sure to praise them for their effort and reward their struggle!

To see a Risk Taking & Perseverance strategy in action, check out this Blue Apple project:

50 YEARS OF INTEREST

Each year, millions of people are crushed by the burden of debt. Millions more are empowered by the miracle of savings and investment. In this project, students will learn the essentials of financial literacy—and use those skills for good by getting high school students "interested" in making wise financial decisions. Watch as your students form meaningful relationships while helping young adults get a handle on how to manage their money.



To explore this project and others, visit BlueAppleTeacher.org