

Assess Your Understanding of How You Perceive Students' Abilities and Potential

1. How often do you find yourself judging students' abilities based on only initial impressions of their presence in your classroom? What is your best guess for the ratio of positive (this student will do well) and negative (this student will probably struggle) thoughts you have? What does this ratio tell you about your mindset about students' potential?

2. In what ways might your students pick up on your internal thoughts and motivations? How might this affect them? In particular, how might this affect students from poverty who may already experience overwhelming negativity about their capacity to learn?

3. Do you expect all students to approach their learning in the same way regardless of the experiences they bring into your classroom? How much effort do you devote to understanding the cognitive load students carry with them and how that might affect their learning?

4. How much time do you devote, in conjunction with your lessons, to helping students learn how to think about their work and their learning?

5. As part of your teaching, what strategies do you present to your students that could help them be more effective in their own studies?
