

## Activity: Crumpled Reminder

This 10-20 minute classroom activity can be used to highlight and reinforce the idea that mistakes are important for learning and for growing our intelligence.

1. (2 min) Ask students to write about a mistake they made this week and how it made them feel.
2. (2 min) Give each student a fresh piece of paper, ask them to crumple it up and throw it at the board with the feelings they have when they make a mistake.
3. (3 min) Ask them to retrieve the paper, un-crumple it, and color each line with different colors.
4. (3 min) Ask students what they think those lines represent. Explain that the lines represent all the synaptic activity that happens when a mistake is made
5. (1 min) Ask students to keep the paper and stick it into a notebook or folder to look at when they make a mistake. This physical reminder prompts students to use mistakes to strengthen their brain every time they open their notebook.
6. (5-10 min) *OPTIONAL* - Lead a discussion on mistakes using questions from [Activity 3: Classroom Discussion](#) to further students' understanding about the value of mistakes.