Growth Mindset Presentation Opening Activity

Developed in collaboration with Dave Bowman

Goal
This activity can help give you a sense of where participants are at with regards to their prior knowledge about growth mindset. It will also let you know how convinced they are that mindsets are important. This information can help you pace your presentation.

Materials Needed:
- Printout of pages 2-10 of this document - the opening activity pages for posting in the room you will be presenting in
- 3”x3” Post-its – enough for 2 per person
- Pens or sharpies – enough for several participants to write at a time

Instructions
Step 1
If necessary, modify the wording of the PowerPoint. For example, if you do this activity, you might want to delete slide 3 since you will have already gathered this information from the activity. You could also add your organization, school, or district logo.

Step 2
Post the printouts in two groups as follows:
- Heading group 1 - Where are you with academic mindsets? (p2)
  - No idea, but I want to know (p3)
  - I know a little bit (p4)
  - Secure on the facts but want to know how to use it (p5)
  - Have experience using it; looking to develop further (p6)
- Heading group 2 - How convinced are you about academic mindsets? (p7)
  - Need convincing it can be useful (p8)
  - Pretty sure it can be useful (p9)
  - Know it is useful (p10)

Place the two title pages (p2 and p7) far enough apart in the room that it is clear they are separate topics. Place each of the response pages in a horizontal row beneath each title. Make sure there is enough space below each to accommodate the number of participants who may place their Post-it beneath each heading. If you anticipate a large group, you may want to put each response option on a larger sheet of paper.

Make sure the room has a table or other surface to allow participants to write on their Post-its when they arrive.

Step 3
As participants arrive, give each one 2 Post-its and explain the activity to them.
Where are you with academic mindsets?

Write one thing you would like to get out of today’s workshop on one of your Post-its, and place it under the heading that best describes your current level of understanding.
No idea, but I want to know
I know a little bit
Secure on the facts but want to know how to use it
Have experience using it; looking to develop further
How convinced are you about academic mindsets?

Place your 2nd Post-it under the heading that best describes your current level of conviction that academic mindsets matter.
Need convincing it can be useful
Pretty sure it can be useful
Know it is useful