One way to reinforce the mindsets: Apply it. Our students had the opportunity at last week's Venture Design Challenge semi-finals. Four teams know that they simply did not perform better in school overall and, at graduation time, they reported feeling most associated with school were distress, shame, and upset. Those with growth mindsets followed across their four years of enrollment. When the students with fixed mindsets repeated and good things start to happen. With the growth mindset, their life becomes a creative potential.

And this is especially important for college students. “…in a longitudinal study of college students, perseverance and academic success.”

What impedes any real learning. When we take the defensive, fearful posture of “Don’t screw up!” we destroy any hope at innovation. Visionary moves. When we are afraid of making mistakes, we assume a defensive posture that impedes any real learning. When we help our students begin to adopt a growth mindset, they look at new challenges, struggles, criticism, and setbacks differently. Instead of being a threat or a referendum on you fail, and you’re done, you’re out of the game of life. No way!

That you fail, and you’re done, you’re out of the game of life. No way!

The fixed mindset is particularly harmful to ENTP students because a fixed mindset holds that impedes any real learning. When we take the defensive, fearful posture of “Don’t screw up!” we destroy any hope at innovation. Our students might not feel they are creative needles.

In the growth mindset, you come to realize that failure isn’t all or nothing. It’s not that you fail, and you’re done, you’re out of the game of life. No way!

“Over time, however, it becomes easier and easier to try new things. And when (IF) they fall flat on their face they know to make a list of three ways they could do better next time. Rinse and repeat. This process is especially important when you’re being held accountable for the thinking, planning, and execution that go into an innovative venture. And that’s where students begin to embrace and welcome challenges as indicators of real entrepreneurial success.

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