How do we overcome non-attendance and lack of engagement of students in interventions designed to increase student attendance and engagement?

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Let’s get involved in a collaborative research initiative

The Heroic Imagination Project (HIP), based in San Francisco aims to...

“translate the extensive research findings of social psychology and related fields into meaningful insights and tools that individuals can use in their everyday lives to transform negative situations and create positive change” (para 1 “What is HIP”, 2015)*

Dr Philip Zimbardo

Dr Bryan Dickerson
TWO MINDSETS
CAROL S. DWECK, Ph.D.

Fixed Mindset
Intelligence is static

Leads to a desire to look smart and therefore a tendency to...

Challenges
...avoid challenges

Obstacles
...give up easily

Growth Mindset
Intelligence can be developed

Leads to a desire to learn and therefore a tendency to...

Challenges
...embrace challenges

Obstacles
...persist in the face of setbacks

Graphic by Nigel Holmes
Example Activity: reflect on and discuss this scenario:

“It is the beginning of class. You have just gotten your grade back on an important test and it is not good, although you did manage to pass with a C.

This class is a subject that you are neither particularly good nor bad at. You tried pretty hard to study, but you know that you did not do your absolute best to prepare for the test.

Take a moment and reflect on how you think that you would feel about this situation. What do you think you might say to yourself?”

DBS study:

- Randomly assign students to Growth Mindset or Placebo Intervention
  - Administer in class time

- Measure Mindset and motivation before and after
  - Hope for eventual impact on engagement and attendance
Successful pilot on PT psych 2nd years in 2013-14

2014-15: attempt to reach FT first years
- Low attendance (17 students in one class- groups of 8 and 9 not ideal)
- Lower engagement “do I have to stay for this?”
- Timetabling difficulties
- When is a good time to apply intervention?

Interested in getting involved, or just finding out more? Email patricia.frazer@dbs.ie