



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

Frazer, P., Murphy, J., Hyland, J., Hyland, P., Reid, R., Walsh, M., Dickerson, B.

*With special thanks to Brid Longe, Keelin Lee and Ray Whelan*

Supported by a



Research Scholarship

# In the beginning...

Let's get involved in a collaborative research initiative

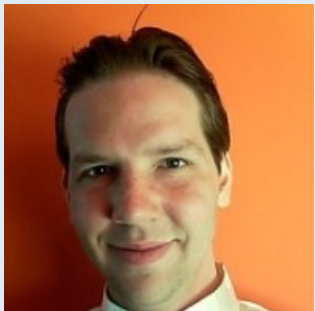


The Heroic Imagination Project (HIP), based in San Francisco aims to ...

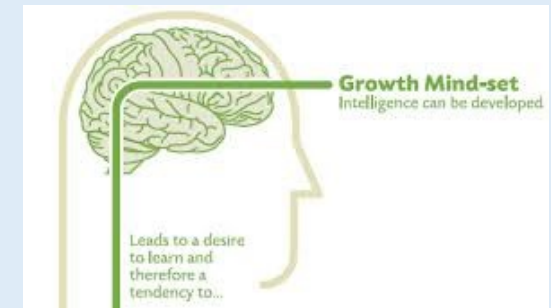


*Dr Philip Zimbardo*

“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 Bryan Dickerson*



# TWO MINDSETS

CAROL S. DWECK, Ph.D.

Graphic by  
Nigel Holmes

**Fixed Mindset**  
Intelligence is static



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

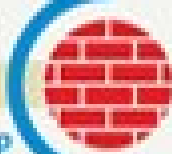
**CHALLENGES**

...avoid  
challenges

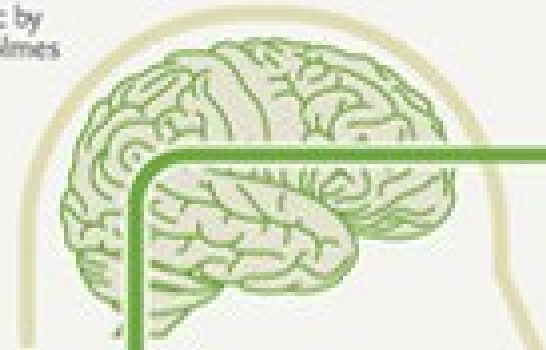


**OBSTACLES**

...give up  
easily



**Growth Mindset**  
Intelligence can be developed



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

...embrace  
challenges



...persist in the  
face of setbacks



# The Growth Mindset Intervention

## Dickerson-Zimbardo Intervention Framework

### 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

# Progress so far...

Successful pilot on PT psych 2<sup>nd</sup> 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?

*Solutions?*