



Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind

Engage for Motivation and Effort

#3 Build the Learner's Mind-set

Your brain can change. Avoid using words like talented or gifted, which imply that cognition or ability is static and out of their control.

Teachers need to be on a daily mission to build attitude, effort, capacity, and behavior. Don't make excuses or try to make students feel artificially better for doing poorly. Instead focus on students' capacity to grow and change, and emphasize where they have control over their learning.

The way a teacher talks to students greatly affects how students shape their mental models of their own capacity.

"Short Term" Solutions you can use (p. 84):

1. Affirm students' ability to learn
2. Affirm students' trust in you
3. Affirm students' choices, attitudes, and effort.
4. Affirm students' capacity.