“Many children in the US, and beyond, grow up thinking that either you can do math or you can’t. When they struggle, they assume they can’t. From that point on any struggle is a further reminder of their perceived inadequacies. Procedural mathematics teaching and high-pressure testing combined with the prevalent ideas that only some students belong in mathematics, has led to the development of widespread mathematics anxiety across the world. Researchers now know that when people with math anxiety encounter numbers, a fear center in the brain is activated—the same fear center that lights up when people see snakes or spiders. As the fear center of the brain becomes activated, activity in the problem-solving centers in the brain is diminished. It is no wonder that so many people underachieve in mathematics—as soon as people become anxious about it, their brains are compromised.”


Culture Strategy #1: Mathography

Resource: Mathography Prompt
Key idea: Mathography is a great way to dig deep into your students math pasts and get to know them.

Culture Strategy #2: Four Corners

Sample statements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In general I like math</th>
<th>I have been disrespected by a teacher</th>
<th>I want to pass this class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I want to graduate from high school</td>
<td>I have disrespected a teacher</td>
<td>I am willing to try this year in math class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key idea: Four Corners is a great way to quickly and easily gather data about the math experiences and views of your whole class. You have to start with a friendly question.

Math Engagement Strategy: Math Wars

Process:
- Organize problems into chunks
- Always model the first question in a new chunk
- Post one problem, allow time for students to work in group and agree on an answer, call a seat # then a team #

Key idea: Math wars is a great way to bring competition and checks for understanding into your classroom.

Want more?

Email me! I’d love to hear from you!
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