

# 8 Habits of Math Teachers Who Value



## PRODUCTIVE STRUGGLE

### **1** Call on students who may not have the correct answer

Then guide students in the process of questioning their thinking

### **2** Praise students for perseverance in problem solving, not for being smart

They'll be more motivated to face challenging problems

### **3** Display work that shows creative problem solving, not the highest scores

Students will learn to value the struggle toward a learning goal

### **4** Provide non-routine problems that can't be solved with a memorized formula

This challenges students to make sense of the problem then figure out the math needed to solve it

### **5** Give students informative feedback

Provide context to help students course correct toward the solution

### **6** Don't give easier work to struggling students

This gives the message that some students can't handle challenging work

### **7** Allow students time to ask questions and tinker with ideas

Slowing down the learning process optimizes retention

### **8** Encourage having a growth mindset

Remind students that everyone has the ability to be mathematical problem solvers

To learn more, go to [mindresearch.org/blog](https://mindresearch.org/blog) and search "productive struggle."

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