

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 and search "productive struggle."

MIND Research Institute