

# **GROWTH MINDSET**

Michael Johnson, PhD Professor of Organizational Behavior



"Wow, you did very well on these problems. You got [number of problems] right. That's a really high score."

- 1. "You must be smart at these problems."
- 2. "You must have worked hard at these problems."
- 3. No additional feedback (control)



Phase 1

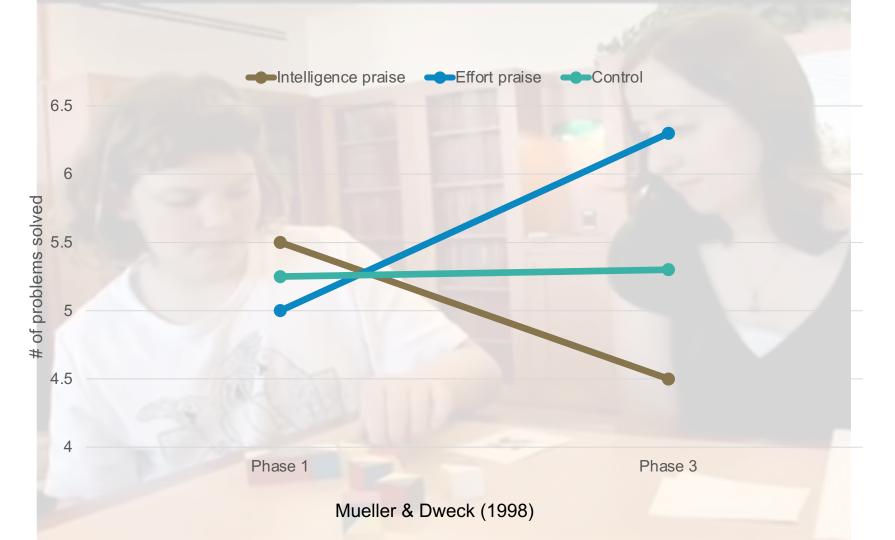
Phase 2

Phase 3

Moderate

**Difficult** 

Moderate



#### WHAT IS MINDSET?





#### **Mindset**



Performance

Talent

Safety

Competing

Blaming

#### Growth

Learning

Effort

Challenge

Cooperating

Solving

**Fixed** 

Growth



"I had always clung to the idea that I was different, that somehow I was smarter or luckier than the rest."

# **Fixed**

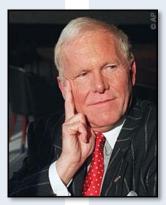
# Growth



"I learned how to be a learner. When you get in a job, the tendency is to say, 'I've got to know it. I've got to give direction to others. I'm in this job because I'm better and smarter."

# **Fixed**

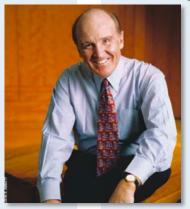
# Growth



"Making my way in the world became a matter of self-respect for me, of a kid trying to prove he was worth something.... To this day, I feel I have to prove and reprove myself."

**Fixed** 

Growth



"Nearly everything I've done in my life has been accomplished with other people.... They filled my life with great fun and learning. They often made me look better than I am."

#### Mindset drives behavior

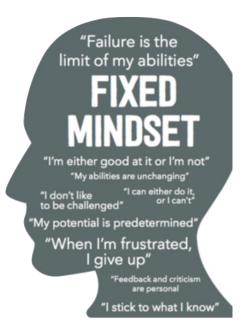
Mindset	Goal	Confidence	Behavior	Goal orientation
Fixed	Performance (gain positive judgments and avoid negative judgments of competence)	High	Seek challenge, high persistence	Performance- approach
		Low	Avoid challenge, low persistence	Performance- avoid
Growth	Learning (increase competence through effort)	High or low	Seek challenge to foster learning, high persistence	Mastery

# WHAT BEHAVIORS ARE AFFECTED BY GROWTH MINDSET?

#### Goal achievement

People with growth mindsets, on average, have:

"Failure is an opportunity to grow" MINDSET "I can learn to do anything I want" "Challenges help me to grow" "My effort and attitude determine my abilities" "Feedback is constructive" "I am inspired by the success of others" "I like to try new things"



- More effective strategies
- Fewer negative emotions
- Higher expectations
- Higher goal achievement

than people with fixed mindsets

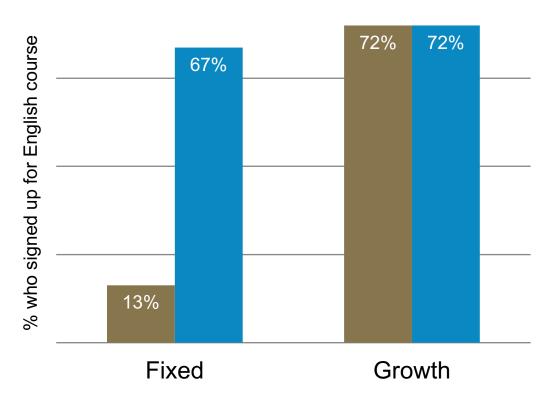
(Burnette et al., 2013)



#### Seeking training







(Hong, Chiu, Dweck, Lin, & Wan, 1999; Zingoni & Byron, 2017)

#### Coaching

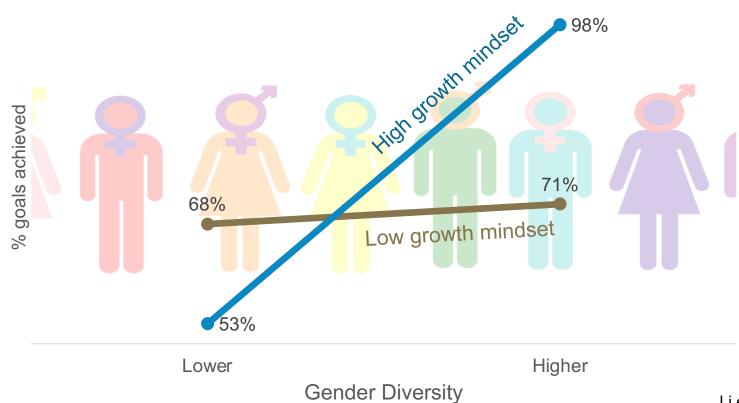
Employees of growth mindset managers report they engage in more coaching behaviors:

- Guidance
- Facilitation
- Inspiration





#### **Team performance**



Li et al. (2002)

# HOW DO WE GIVE GROWTH-MINDED FEEDBACK?

#### Steps to providing growth-minded feedback



# **Accept failure**



#### **Psychological Safety**



The degree to which people perceive their work environment as conducive to taking interpersonal risks

In psychologically safe environments, people believe:

- if they make a mistake, others will not penalize or think less of them for it
- others will not resent or penalize them for asking for help, information or feedback

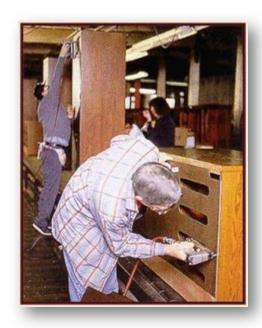
Enhances team learning, creativity, and performance

#### **Enhance self-efficacy**

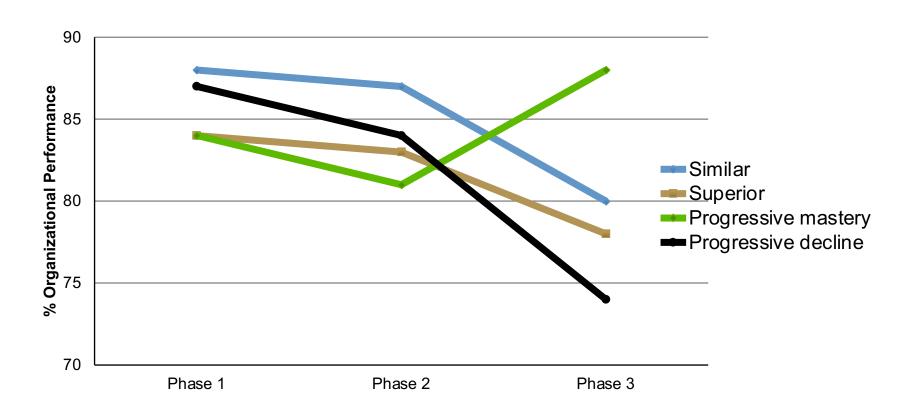
Organization simulation with MBA students

Four conditions of false feedback:

- 1. Bad at first, but steadily increasing
- 2. Similar to others and stayed similar
- 3. Good at first, but steadily decreasing
- 4. Good and stayed good



#### **Enhance self-efficacy**



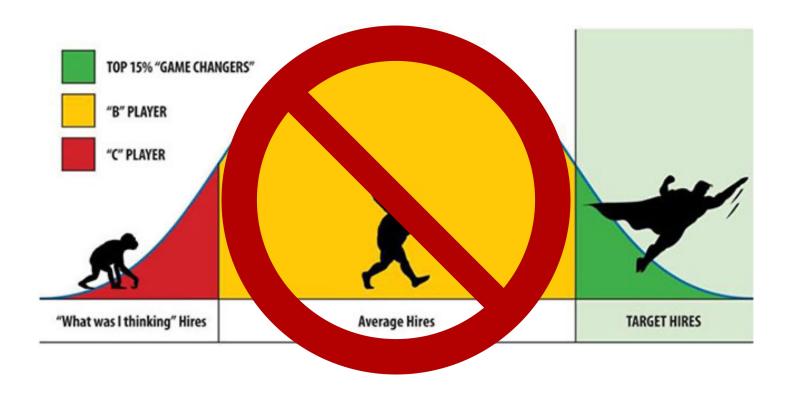


Christine Hà, winner of Masterchef

# **Reward learning**



#### **Evaluate compared to prior performance**



## **Evaluate compared to prior performance**



#### Personal reflection exercise

In what areas of your life do you struggle to have a growth mindset?

How can you strengthen a growth mindset in yourself?

How can you provide feedback that encourages a growth mindset?

