

Robyn Silbey Professional Development Raising Teacher Quality and Student Achievement in Mathematics



Spring is here! It's a fragrant and colorful time of year in many parts of the country. Mother Nature is revitalized. How about you?



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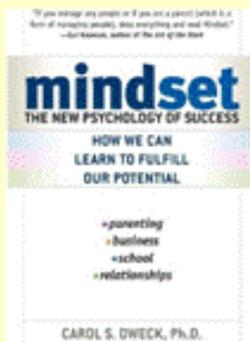
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Mindset by Carol Dweck

[Carol Dweck](#) shares decades of research on effort-based intelligence in her fascinating book, [Mindset](#). Findings from Dweck's work reveal that praising talent, intelligence, and athleticism fosters a *fixed mindset*. Students think, "I'm smart. I don't take risks. If I make a mistake, I feel stupid." Alternatively, praising effort and hard work fosters a *growth mindset*. Learners reason, "I can work hard and continue to improve. Mistakes are markers on the road to success." We need our students to think that if they persevere, they can grow to learn any new and challenging content. A brief [You Tube](#) video highlights the fixed and growth mindsets if you are motivated to learn more right now!



Personal Puzzles

Personal Puzzles help students connect related concepts in a puzzle format. A Personal Number Puzzle, for example, involves each student choosing a number he or she represents in a variety of ways. Depictions may include expanded notation, the word name, illustrations, and expressions equal to the value of the number. After students' representations

Shout Out! Teach for America

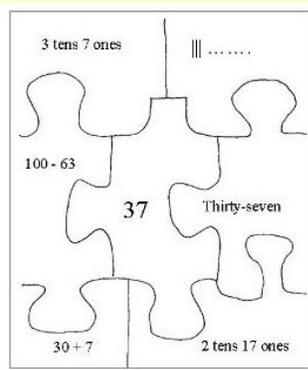
TEACHFORAMERICA

I am proud to be working with [Teach for America](#) in the [Washington, DC](#) metropolitan area. Teach for America is "growing the movement of leaders who work to ensure that kids growing up in poverty get an excellent education." In DC as well as all around the country, every Teach for America Corps member I have collaborated with is highly motivated and committed to transforming education in the urban areas across the nation. These young, energetic men and women are changing their own lives as well as the students they serve.

Team Building Through a School-Wide Project

children teaching mathematics

In the Coaches' Corner of March's [Teaching Children Mathematics](#), (page 397), Robyn details a school-wide project in which staff and students create a One Million Model using quadrille paper. It's a terrific team-building project that all staff and students engage in and will remember for years to come.



are checked by a partner for accuracy, each creates a Personal Puzzle with one representation in each section. The puzzles are cut apart and then exchanged with another pair of students for assembly. Personal Puzzles provide students with an engaging way to deepen conceptual understanding and make connections. Pre-made

[puzzle templates](#) are available, or students can make their own. Email [Robyn](#) for more information and K-12 applications for Personal Puzzles.

See Robyn at these Upcoming Conferences



April 26-27, 2012, Philadelphia, PA



July 11-12, Las Vegas, NV



July 18-19, Houston, TX

Customized Visits to Suit Your Needs



Call 301-802-5285 or email Robyn at rsilbey@hotmail.com to talk about visits to your district or school.

See [Robyn's](#) article, page 397, for more details.



New Workshop!



Coming Soon! A new, stimulating workshop connecting the [Standards for Mathematical Practice](#), heuristic tasks, and intrinsic motivation. Email [Robyn](#) for details and available summer and fall dates.

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