

## THE GROWTH MINDSET WAY



### IF A STUDENT SAYS...

### SAY...

"I'VE HEARD BUSINESS CALC IS HARD AND THAT I WOULD NEED A TUTOR, SO I'M ALREADY SCARED THAT I WILL FAIL IT."

"IF YOU'VE ALREADY DECIDED THAT YOU'RE GOING TO FAIL IT EVEN BEFORE YOU HAVE ATTENDED THE CLASS, THEN YOU PROBABLY WON'T DO WELL. THAT'S A *FIXED MINDSET*."

"BUT I'M NOT RELIGIOUS, SO I'M COMING INTO THIS REL CLASS AT A DISADVANTAGE."

"THIS CLASS IS NOT ABOUT MEMORIZING BIBLE FACTS OR RELIGIOUS DOCTRINES SO NOT HAVING A LOT OF PRECONCEIVED IDEAS CAN ACTUALLY BE AN ADVANTAGE."

"I CAN'T TAKE BIOLOGY BECAUSE I'M JUST NOT GOOD AT SCIENCE."



"YOU CAN GET BETTER AT ANY CLASS! YOUR PAST SCORES DON'T DETERMINE YOUR FUTURE SUCCESS."

"WHY SHOULD I TAKE AN ECONOMICS CLASS? I'M NOT GOING INTO ANY BUSINESS RELATED FIELD."

"ECONOMICS IS THE STUDY ABOUT HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF LIFE. TAKING ECO 2030 & 2050 WILL MAKE YOU A BETTER PROBLEM SOLVER IN OTHER ASPECTS OF LIFE."

"I DON'T WANT TO TAKE A CLASS THAT WILL MAKE ME QUESTION MY CHRISTIAN FAITH."

"REL 2001 IS DIFFERENT FROM STUDYING THE BIBLE IN CHURCH, BUT IF YOU WANT IT TO, IT CAN HELP YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH. YOU WILL LEARN TO ASK NEW QUESTIONS THAT CAN HELP YOU TAKE YOUR UNDERSTANDING TO THE NEXT LEVEL."

"I'VE BEEN PLACED IN CALCULUS, AND I'VE NEVER TAKEN CALCULUS, AND I'M SCARED OF IT, SO I NEED TO TAKE AN EASIER MATH."



"YOU'VE BEEN PLACED IN THAT PARTICULAR MATH CLASS BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER TAKEN THAT SUBJECT BEFORE, AND THAT PARTICULAR CLASS IS THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR LEARNING."

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## BECAUSE...

SOMETIMES SAYING "I'M JUST NOT GOOD AT IT" BECOMES AN EXCUSE TO NOT ACCEPT THE EFFORT NEEDED TO IMPROVE. DON'T LET STUDENTS GET AWAY WITH THAT EXCUSE. INSTEAD, USE IT AS A WAY TO CELEBRATE THE VIRTUE OF HARD WORK.

IF A STUDENT SAYS...

"I NEED TO PICK EASY GEN-EDS BECAUSE THEY DONT REALLY AFFECT MY MAJOR."



SAY...

"SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY COURSES GIVES STUDENTS TOOLS TO ADDRESS DIFFERENCE AND CONFLICTS IN OUR SOCIETY, SUCH AS THOSE ABOUT RACE, GENDER, CLASS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AND SEXUAL ACTIVITY."

"LAW SCHOOLS, MBA PROGRAMS, AND MEDICAL PROGRAMS CARE ABOUT THE HIGHEST MATH CLASSES YOU TAKE, ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE NOT A MATH MAJOR. THEY WANT TO SEE THAT YOU TRIED MORE RIGOROUS COURSES THAN YOUR PEERS."

"INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CHANGES THE WAY WE LOOK AT THE WORLD, THE WAY WE RELATE TO EACH OTHER, THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT WHAT MATTERS TO US. IT HELPS US BECOME BETTER COMMUNICATORS BY LEARNING HOW TO THINK ABOUT IMAGES AND IMAGE MAKING."

"EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING TO HIRE PEOPLE WHO ARE CURIOUS, ADAPTABLE, EMPATHETIC, OPEN-MINDED, COLLABORATIVE, AND HAVE STRONG COMMUNICATION SKILLS. GEN-EDS HELP YOU DEVELOP THOSE QUALITIES."

"INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY NOT ONLY FOCUSES ON HOW WE UNDERSTAND BEHAVIOR AND THINKING; IT ALSO STRENGTHENS CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS."

"INSTEAD OF TAKING AN 'EASY' FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASS, CONSIDER TAKING SOMETHING MORE DIFFICULT AND CHALLENGING. THAT WILL HELP MAKE YOU MORE ATTRACTIVE TO EMPLOYERS, AND WILL HELP YOU GROW YOUR INTELLIGENCE."

"PRACTICALLY ALL EMPLOYERS AGREE THAT THE ABILITY TO THINK CRITICALLY, COMMUNICATE CLEARLY, AND SOLVE COMPLEX PROBLEMS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN A CANDIDATES UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR."



GEN-EDS ARE NOT MERELY "FILLER" CLASSES. THEY ARE THE COURSES WHERE STUDENTS LEARN THE "BROAD RANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT EQUIP THEM TO LIVE REWARDING AND MEANINGFUL LIVES." STUDENTS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE VIRTUE OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION COMES NOT MERELY IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT A SINGLE ACADEMIC FIELD, BUT IN, AS THE AAC&U SAYS, "CULTIVATING RESPONSIBILITY AND A STRONG SENSE OF ETHICS AND VALUES." THIS SHOULD HELP STUDENTS SEE THE VALUE OF GEN-ED CLASSES EXTENDS BEYOND THE STATED COURSE MATERIAL.