

Design Thinking and the Growth Mindset in the Middle School Science Classroom

CJ Bell, Cary Academy, 2022 Summer



Research Questions

- 1. Does instruction in design thinking strategies increase the level of growth mindset in eighth grade science students?
- 2. How does the initial mindset category impact student display of design thinking behaviors during novel problem solving?

Data Collection

	Data Sources
1	Pre- and Post- Mindset Assessment Tool Results
2	Student Interviews
3	Student Self-Reflections
4	Teacher Observations with the Design Thinking Behaviors Rubric

Treatment (4 weeks)

Experimental Group (*n***=47):**

- Take Pre-Treatment Mindset Assessment Tool.
- Experience Intro to Design Thinking Lesson.
- · Learn about density and buoyancy and participate in one design challenge for each unit.
- Take Post-Treatment Mindset Assessment Tool.

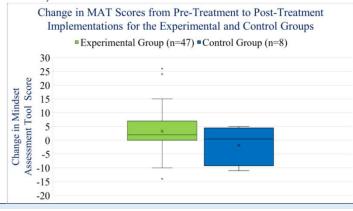
Control Group (n=8):

- Take Pre-Treatment Mindset Assessment Tool.
- Learn about density and buoyancy.
- Take Post-Treatment Mindset Assessment Tool.

Results

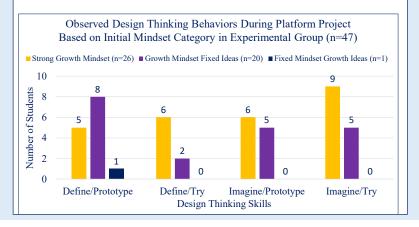
Research Question 1

- The data show a positive connection between experiencing design thinking instruction and an increase in students' level of growth mindset.
- A single tailed, two sample mean t-test revealed a **significant, positive change** in the scores of the experimental group as compared to the control group (P = 0.042).



Research Question 2

- The data **do not show a distinct pattern** between initial mindset category and student display of design thinking behaviors.
- Strong Growth Mindset individuals were most likely to engage in Imagine/Try Behaviors (35%).
- Growth Mindset Fixed Ideas individuals were most likely to engage in Define/Prototype Behaviors (40%).



Value

- Evidence to support that experiencing design thinking instruction increases the level of growth mindset in eighth grade science students.
- **Professional growth** as a design thinking coach.
- Development of student reflection process to that encourages a growth-oriented perspective on student progress and achievement.

Scan the QR code for additional details!

