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This Course Is: CIS _36A_____

Learning and Intelligence Questions

Please read the Salman Kahn article "[Why I Will Never Tell My Son He is Smart](#)", watch the video, and answer the following questions:

1. In your opinion, are people born smart or do they get smarter as they learn new things and progress through life?

I think some people do born with smart and they might learn new things easier than others. However, everyone getting smarter as they learn new things and progress through life. For average people, we just need more time and work harder than the smart people.

2. According to the article, what is Samuel Kahn's perspective on question 1?

He thinks that our intelligence is not fixed, and the best way that we can grow our intelligence is to embrace tasks where we might struggle and fail.

3. According to Kahn, why is it better to engage in tasks that are difficult and cause us to struggle rather than ones that we find easy?

Because researchers have known for some time that the brain is like a muscle; that the more you use it, the more it grows. They've found that neural connections form and deepen most when we make mistakes doing difficult tasks rather than repeatedly having success with easy ones.

4. Why will Kahn never tell his son that he is smart?

Because he thinks that praising someone's process ("I really like how you struggled with that problem") versus praising an innate trait or talent ("You're so clever!") is one way to reinforce a growth mindset with someone. Process praise acknowledges the effort; talent praise reinforces the notion that one only succeeds (or doesn't) based on a fixed trait.

5. Now that you have read this article, what are you going to do the next time that you find yourself struggling with an assignment or a new task?

I think next time when I struggling with an assignment or a new task I will try my best to solve the problems and won't fear the challenges and give up easily.