

1. Submit a short synopsis of your thoughts on the Last Lecture.
Answer the following questions - what affected you the most?
Did you identify with any of his messages? 1/2 page to 1 page.

“Experience is what you get, when you didn’t get what you wanted” I like this message, but I also think good things can give you relevant experience too. The experiences that you get “when you didn’t get what you wanted” can sometimes be like that doofy country song “Thank God for unanswered prayers”!

I also liked when he talked about Captain Kirk - I watched a gazillion reruns with one of my brothers and even though Kirk could be wacky, and the reruns are a bit cringey to watch, there was always a good message.

When he says “apologize when you screw up” that resonated with me. I think it’s important to take responsibility for your actions (or inactions). I recently had to redo a large amount of paperwork due to a misunderstanding I had (back to hating getting oral information) and as a result, some money had to be reallocated. I had to make several phone calls owing up to it. It was not fun. I had a moment where I really wanted to blame it on the person who gave the instructions. But hey, there was an experience that I had! I like to think that karma will be gentle on me in the future.

2. Submit a short synopsis of your thoughts on Mindset. Answer the following questions - what was your result from the Mindset quiz. Do you have a different perspective on Mindset now? Do you think it will affect your outlook moving forward?

Having gone through the teaching program at U of M, I've honestly had my fill of Growth Mindset. And that's not to say I don't believe in it, generally. My thoughts are very colored by being a teacher at the prison (Montana State). These are the guys who maybe missed out on a growth mindset teacher as a child, although some of them were disturbingly young. So how do you encourage adults to have a growth mindset, particularly when they've given up on themselves? It's really hard. You encourage, you give them your belief (even when you know it's possibly hopeless), but every bit of encouragement has to be tempered with the knowledge that some of them have nothing left to lose. I received unsolicited gifts and letters which I had to report immediately or risk my job or reputation. Any bit of encouragement can be taken as a possible romantic or "business" opportunity. All that to say I switched jobs after that and I'm not sure I will ever teach anyone besides my child. My score on the quiz was 40, which was something like "you have a growth mindset with some fixed ideas." It is very hard for me to look at my personal experience with trying to use Growth Mindset on adults and believe in it. And I don't want to sound bitter - I had some joys and happy moments when students passed portions or all of their GED's - and maybe I have to see my growth mindset successes there.

3. Submit your learning style document. Was it what you expected?
What do you think you will do in this class to optimize your learning? What can I do to help you?

It wasn't surprising - visual learner was my highest area, followed by auditory, then tactile. I definitely prefer to read instructions. If I can find a transcript of a video I usually do that over watching/listening. I hate being given instructions verbally - I never get everything straight and I'm always missing something.