

Making mistakes is okay

Students who are struggling with school often shut down at the first sign of not knowing or making a mistake. Show them that they can build on mistakes and partially correct answers (Motivating Students Who Don't Care p 10-11)

The script

1. You show a really good understanding of _____
(Begin with a strength based upon an aspect of the student's work that showed the kind of thinking you were looking for)
2. Your mistake is a good reminder to _____ (Give an explanation or new information that helps promote understanding beyond the mistake)
3. Now that you seem to understand even better, I'd like you to do one or two more for practice. (Give specific practice problems)
4. Offer congratulations when improvement is shown.

Complete an example

Think of a student that has made a mistake. How could you reframe the mistake and help the student build on it?

1. You show a really good understanding of _____
2. Your mistake is a good reminder to _____
3. Now that you seem to understand even better, I'd like you to do one or two more for practice. (Give specific practice problems)
4. Offer congratulations when improvement is shown.