

# THINKING LIKE A GENIUS



**Time Required:** 30-45 minutes

**Content Standards:** AA.S.1 Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the lifespan.

**Indicators (Students will...):** AA.A.11.1.4 Demonstrate the ability to use a variety of effective and innovative thinking and learning strategies.

**GOAL:** Students will discuss strategies they can use to think like a genius.

**Activity Statements:** Students will participate in group discussions regarding strategies recommended and translate parables regarding thinking like a genius.

## Materials:

1. Pen/pencil
2. Chalkboard
3. Handout 1 – *Strategies*
4. Handout 2 – *Parable*

## Procedures:

*SAY: Before becoming inventors, great artists, great musicians or famous for original thought or style, these people were just considered average or even below-average people. There are certain things that all these people have in common. They THINK like a genius and so can you. Today's lesson will review some of the key principles of thinking like a genius.*

1. Let's start by asking you what you think is meant by this statement. Advisors should have this written on the board.

**A thinker sees his own actions as experiments and questions--as attempts to find out something. Success and failure are for him answers above all.**

Friedrich Nietzsche, 1844 - 1900, German

2. After students have discussed this quote, the advisor might say: *If we don't try things we believe will work... because we are afraid of failure, we won't grow and learn and we*

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*won't create something great. Sometimes we have to make a lot of mistakes before we get it right.*

3. Divide students into small groups.
4. Prior to class give cut strategies from Handout 1 into strips. Give 2 tips to each group.
5. Ask group members to discuss their strategy and decide what it means.
6. After groups have had a few minutes to discuss, have each group take turns sharing their strategy to think like a genius with the entire class.
7. Repeat this group process using the Handout 2 strips with parables, having student give their parable and explain what it means.

## Discussion:

1. What is something you believe you could really excel in, but are afraid you won't be?
2. What is a tip you learned today that might help you succeed at something you want to try?
3. What was your favorite parable?
4. What strategy did you find most interesting?

## Additional Resources:

Study Guides and Strategies <http://www.studygs.net/genius.htm>

Links to help manage time and improve lifelong learning

<http://www.uni.edu/walsh/linda7.html>

Brain Gym-Fun Activities and Games to improve memory and learning

<http://www.smart-kit.com/scategory/study-skills/>

## Extension Activities:

Select one or two strategies and apply it to something you would like to improve.

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