



## Student Goal Orientation Activity Cards

### Performance or Ego Orientation

**Focus of Effort:** Protecting sense of self-worth

**Goal:** To attain recognition of having performed at a superior level

**Beliefs and Behaviors:**

- Believes achievement is a function of ability, not a result of effort
- Works to exceed performance of others or to hide learning needs
- Believes initial lack of success indicates lack of ability
- Quits, cheats, or chooses easier work when faced with difficulty
- “I don’t know what I’m doing, so I’m not smart enough to do this.”

**Key Questions**

- “How do I get the highest ‘A?’”
- “How do I avoid being seen as not smart enough?”

### Task-Completion Orientation

**Focus of Effort:** Assignment completion

**Goal:** To get the points

**Beliefs and Behaviors:**

- Points and grades, rather than learning, are the aim of school
- Works just hard enough to get assignments turned in and/or get points
- Believes effort in school is about getting points; it matters less who does the work
- Looks for alternate ways to get points when faced with difficulty

**Key Questions**

- “When is it due?”
- “How much is it worth?”

### Learning Orientation

**Focus of Effort:** Improving work and getting better

**Goal:** To find out what you don’t know and master it

**Beliefs and Behaviors:**

- Achievement is the result of effort
- Develops willingness to try and persistence to keep trying
- Believes that effort will lead to eventual success
- Exhibits “failure tolerance” when faced with difficulty; initial failure can be overcome by a change in strategy

**Key Question**

- “What can I learn from this mistake?”