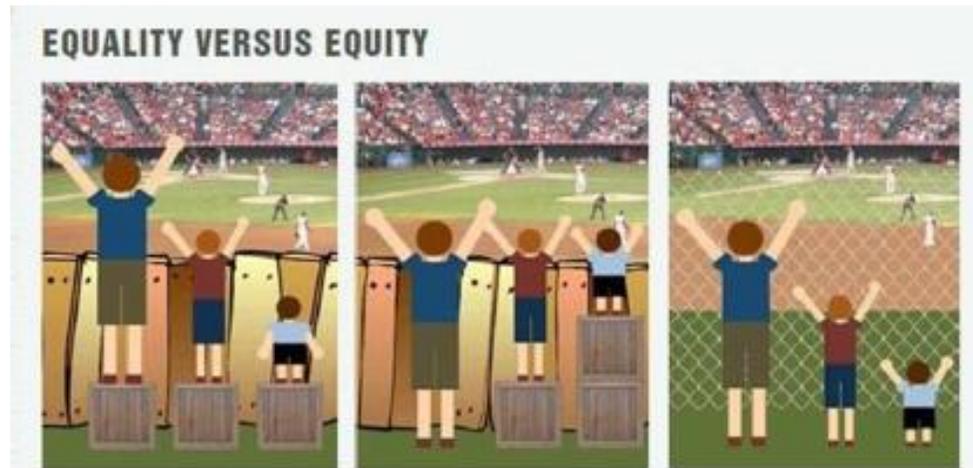


# Fostering an Inclusive Classroom

*Kiki Zissimopoulos, PhD*

*zissimopoulos@uchicago.edu*

*Associate Director for STEM, Chicago Center for Teaching*



# What does inclusive teaching mean to you?

Think, individually, of classrooms you may have been in that were particularly inclusive or not.

- If you had to pick one word to describe inclusive teaching, what would that be?

Now introduce yourself and share with the person next to you.

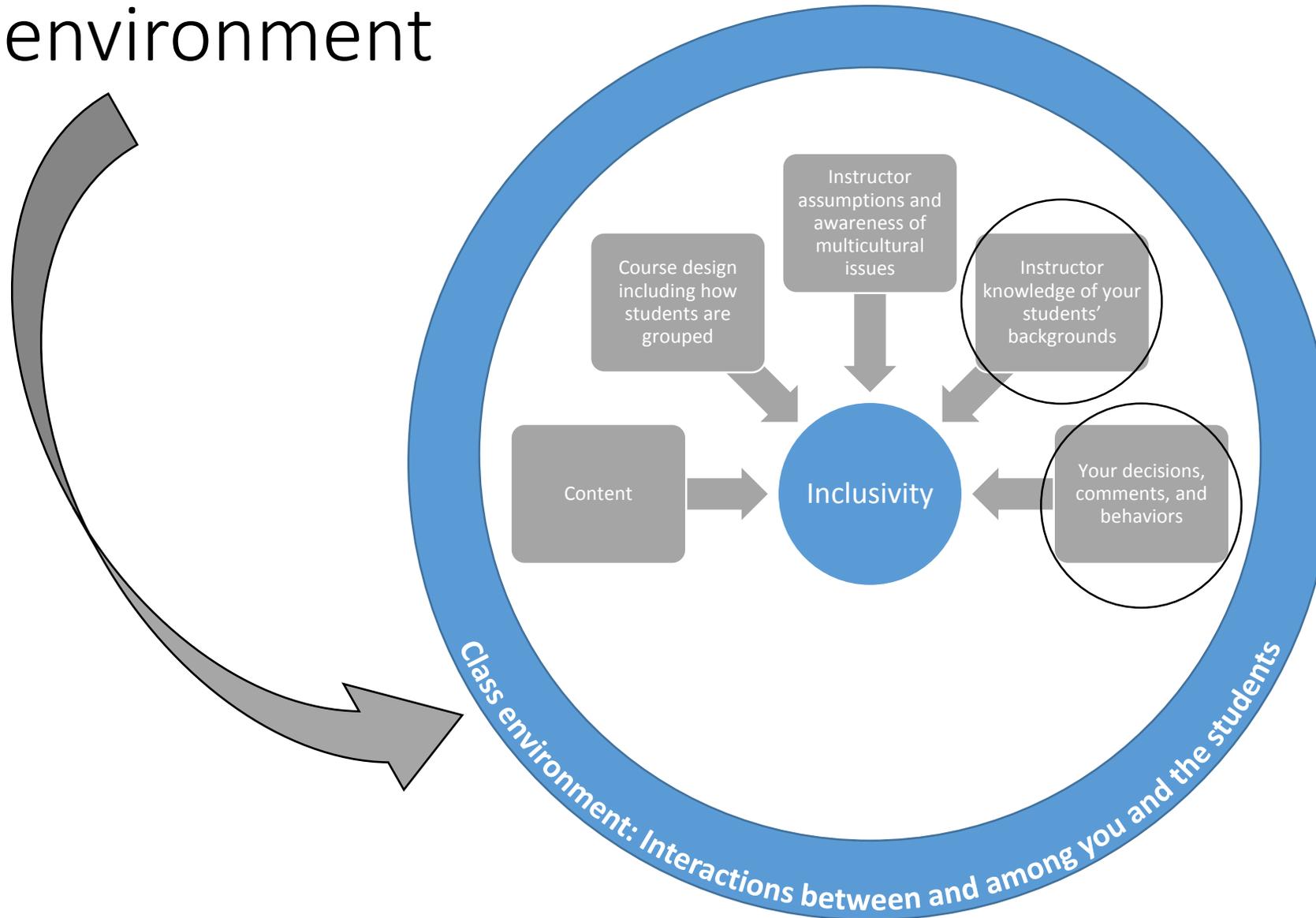
# Over the next hour we will:

- ✓ reflect on what it means to teach inclusively
- ✓ name different aspects of diversity
- ✓ define growth mindset and identify ways to foster this in a math classroom

# Students will enter your classroom with a variety of identities

- Gender
- Race
- Class
- Learning preferences (NOT styles)
- Motivation for learning
- Approach to learning
- Approach to teaching
- Mindset (fixed or growth)
- Major
- Year
- Nationality
- Ethnicity
- Prior knowledge
- Age
- Gender identity
- Etc...

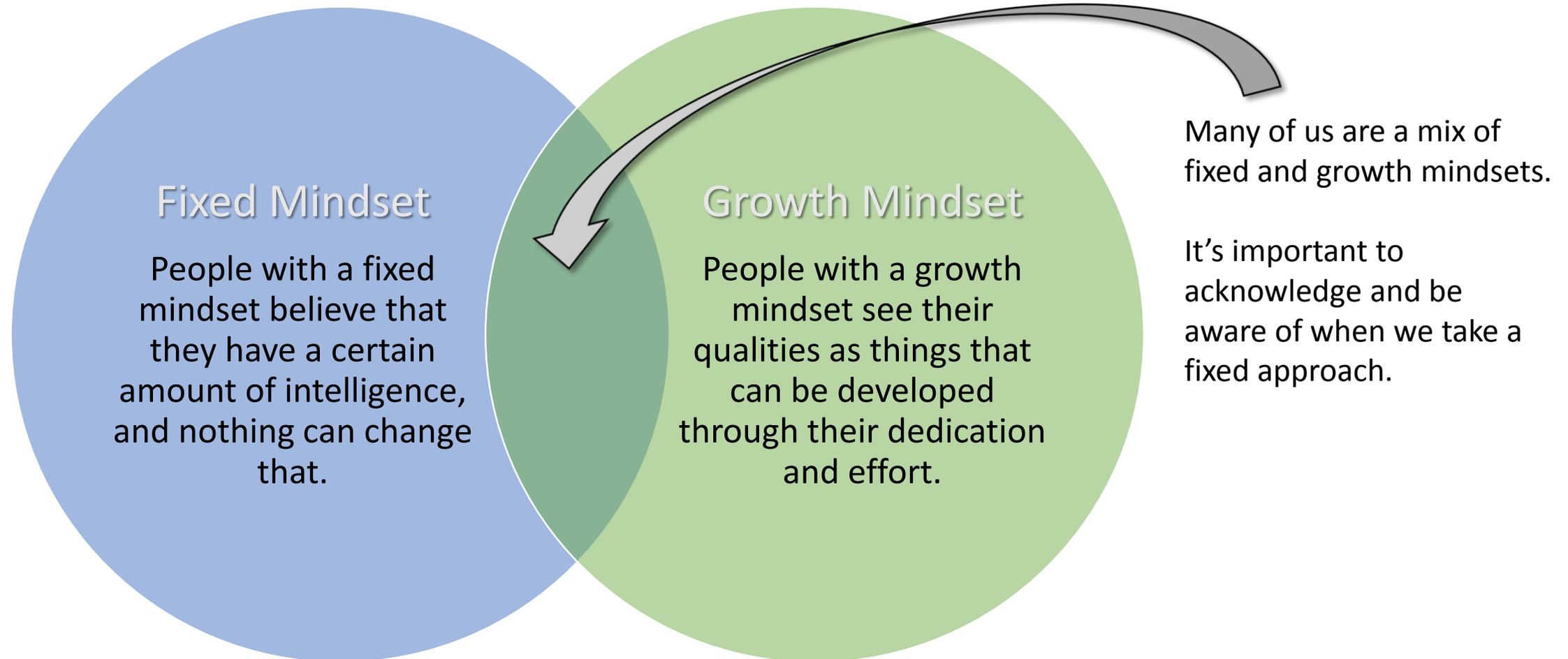
# As an instructor, you have control of the classroom environment



# How can you get to know your students' backgrounds?

- Survey
- Autobiography
- Class blog/discussion board
- Tests

Growth mindset is the belief that qualities can change and that we can develop our intelligence and abilities



# Growth mindset helps students thrive on challenges and setbacks and unlock learning and it fosters inclusion.

- It's not just about effort. Working hard involves thinking hard, reflecting and changing strategies. Encourage students to push through challenges.
- Rethink assessments
  - Reward growth
  - Credit for returning to problems students got wrong
  - Let assessment drive learning – only happens if you go back, look at what you did, and learn from it
- Provide helpful feedback
- Prepare everyone – treat students as individuals
  - Give high achievers opportunities to struggle and persevere
- Model lifelong learning

What does it mean to “think like a mathematician”?

How can you help your students develop these skills?

# Inclusive classrooms are ones in which:

- A variety of teaching methods are used
- A range of opportunities for participation are used - from group discussion, to individual reflection - to allow all students to demonstrate their abilities
- Thoughtfulness, respect and academic excellence are valued and promoted
- Multiple perspectives and experiences are considered
- Everyone feels safe, supported and encouraged. *Students are treated as individuals*

# Video

**WHAT DOES INCLUSIVE TEACHING  
MEAN TO YOU?**

Inclusive teaching IS excellent teaching

Questions?

# References

## Research-based resources:

- Ambrose, S. A., Bridges, M. W., DiPietro, M., Lovett, M. C., & Norman, M. K. (2010). *How learning works: Seven research-based principles for smart teaching*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Dweck, C. (2015). Carol Dweck Revisits the 'Growth Mindset'. *Education Week*, 35(5), 20-4. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2015/09/23/carol-dweck-revisits-the-growth-mindset.html>
- Saunders, S., & Kardia, D. (2009). Creating inclusive college classrooms. *Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan*. Retrieved October, 12, 2009. [http://crlt.umich.edu/gsis/p3\\_1](http://crlt.umich.edu/gsis/p3_1)

## Additional online resources:

- Columbia University Inclusive Teaching Forum. <http://ctl.columbia.edu/programs/campus-wide-events/inclusive-teaching-forum/>
- “How to Integrate Growth Mindset Messages into Every Part of Math Class” <https://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2016/12/05/how-to-integrate-growth-mindset-messages-into-every-part-of-math-class/>