

# Welcome to the NGCP National Webinar

## *Gender Equity in Online STEM Learning*

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Please respond to the poll below:



# NGCP Vision

The National Girls Collaborative Project **brings together organizations** committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).



# NGCP Goals

1. **Maximize access** to shared resources within organizations interested in engaging girls in STEM.
2. **Strengthen the capacity** of programs by sharing exemplary practice research and models.
3. **Use the leverage of a network** to achieve gender equity in STEM.



# NGCP Activities



## Increased Collaboration Benefits Girl-Serving STEM Programs

Helped us better serve girls



82%

Increased girls' interest in STEM



78%

Helped my program be more effective



77%

Increased girls' confidence in STEM



77%

Source: NGCP 2015 Annual Survey

# National Network of Collaborative Teams



NATIONAL GIRLS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT



# Gender Equity in Online STEM Learning:



Dr. Amanda Sullivan:  
Researcher, Educator,  
and Author



Dr. Lecia Barker:  
NCWIT Senior Researcher  
and Associate Professor at  
University of Colorado at  
Boulder

A photograph of three young girls in a classroom setting. One girl in the center is looking through a black microscope. To her left, another girl is looking down at a book or paper. To her right, a third girl is looking towards the microscope. The background is slightly blurred, showing a window with greenery outside. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# Gender Equity in Online STEM Learning: Supporting Girls in Early Childhood & Early Elementary School

Dr. Amanda Sullivan, Ph.D.

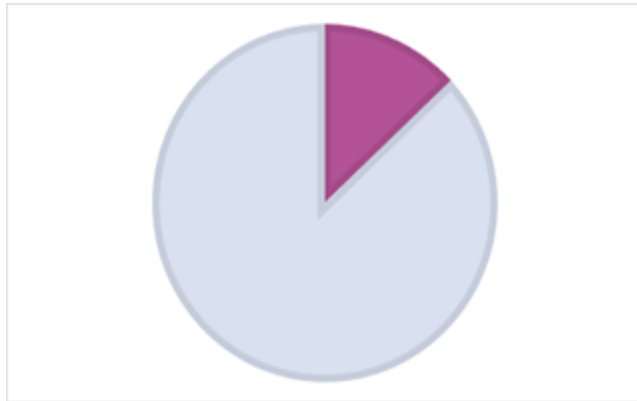


## What We'll Discuss...

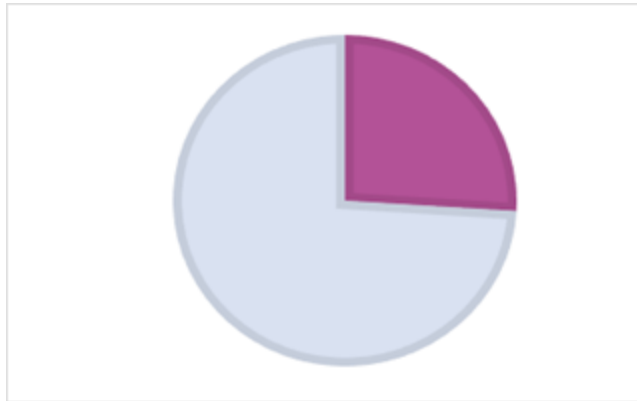
- Why Early Childhood Matters
- Supporting Girls' STEAM Learning in the Early Years
- How Can Teachers Support Parents?
- Resources



# Women make up half the U.S. Workforce but only...



**13% of engineers are women**



**26% of computer scientists are women**

A group of diverse young children sitting together, looking towards the camera with various expressions. The children are of different ethnicities and are dressed in casual clothing. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

**What Does Early  
Childhood Have to Do  
with It?**

# The Impact of Stereotypes





## Stereotypes in Early Childhood

**Basic stereotypes begin to develop in children around two to three years of age (Kuhn, Nash, & Brucken, 1978; Signorella, Bigler, & Liben, 1993)**

**By age 5, children have developed a range of stereotypes about gender (Martin & Ruble, 2004)**

# In my own research I've found...

- Young children have gender stereotypes about many STEM tools, apps, and games ([Sullivan, 2016](#))
- Gender differences in coding begin appearing in Kindergarten ([Sullivan & Bers, 2016](#); [Sullivan & Bers, 2013](#))
- By high school, females participating on robotics teams have less confidence than males and enter with less prior experience ([Sullivan & Bers, 2019](#); [Sullivan & Bers, forthcoming](#))





## **Early Childhood Interventions Matter!**

Collaborative, creative, interdisciplinary, robotics and coding initiatives can significantly increase girls' interest in engineering in grades PK-2 and can reduce gender stereotypes of both boys and girls ([Sullivan, 2019](#); [Sullivan & Bers, 2018](#); [Sullivan, 2016](#))



## Supporting Girls' STEAM Learning in the Early Years



# Choosing activities and materials that...



- Engage girls in **creating** rather than **consuming** technology and media
  - Engage girls in **tinkering** and **exploring**
  - Engage girls in **coding** and **engineering**
    - Foster **spatial reasoning**
  - Engage girls in **building** and **design**
    - **Builds off girls' interests**



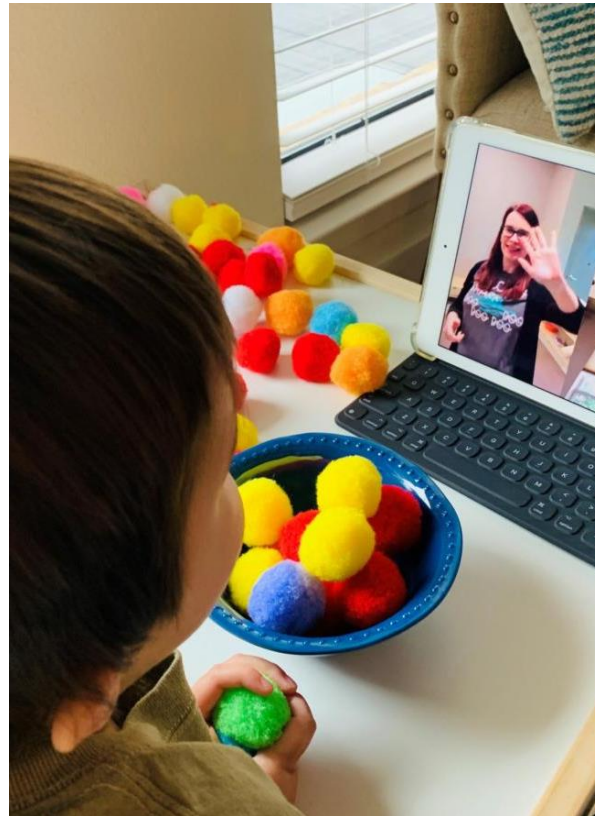


# What Early STEAM Learning Looks Like...



# What Early STEAM Learning Looks Like in Virtual or Home-Based Settings...





**Or Maybe...It Looks Like This:  
Online + Hands-On**

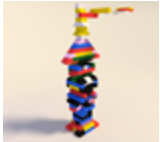


---



## Think About:

- Choosing activities that translate to virtual learning
- Home environment considerations
- Supporting & communicating with parents

# Building & Engineering Activities

Activity Idea	Age Range	STEAM Areas	Resources
<p><b>Build the Tallest Tower</b></p> 	2+	Engineering Math	<p><a href="#">Toddler Towers Tutorial</a></p> <p><a href="#">Marshmallow Towers</a></p> <p><a href="#">Tallest Tower Challenge</a></p>
<p><b>Building Bridges</b></p> 	3+	Engineering Architecture Math	<p><a href="#">Building Bridges Pre-K Activity Instructions</a></p> <p><a href="#">Video: What Makes Bridges Strong?</a></p>
<p><b>Building Houses</b></p> 	4+	Art Engineering Architecture Math Storytelling	<p><a href="#">Tutorial for LEGO House</a></p> <p><a href="#">Three Little Pigs Engineering Activity</a></p> <p><a href="#">Video- Three Little Pigs</a></p>



# Three Little Pigs' Houses: Storybook STEAM



**Age Range:** 4-8\*




**Materials:** Fan, Legos, plastic straws, popsicle sticks, crafts, recycled materials, blueprint planning sheets, any version of the 3 Little pigs story

**Supplemental Books:** *If I Built a House* and *Dreaming Up*

**Duration:** 2-3 hours



# Coding Activities

Activity Idea	Age Range	STEAM Areas	Resources & Materials
<p>Coder Says game</p> 	2+	<p>Coding Communication Math</p>	<p><a href="#">Code.Org Simon Says Tutorial</a></p> <p><a href="#">LittleCodr Card Game</a></p> <p><a href="#">KIBO Says Game</a></p>
<p>Code a Robot</p> 	3+	<p>Technology Engineering Math</p>	<p><a href="#">Robot Turtles Board Game</a></p> <p><a href="#">Code-A-Pillar</a></p> <p><a href="#">KIBO Robot</a></p>
<p>Code a Story or Dance</p> 	4+	<p>Technology Engineering Art Storytelling Math</p>	<p><a href="#">ScratchJr Printable Coding Blocks</a></p> <p><a href="#">ScratchJr</a></p> <p><a href="#">Scratch</a></p> <p><a href="#">Hour of Code Dance Party</a></p>

# Coder Says

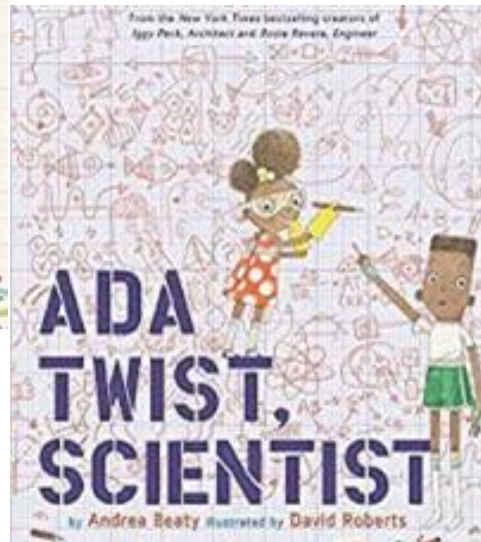
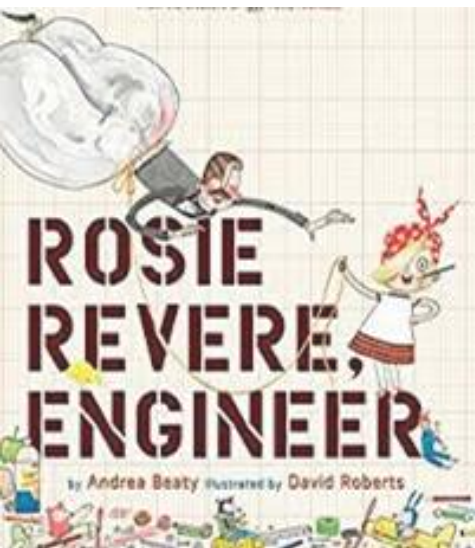


A fun twist on Simon Says, Coder Says lets kids pretend to be Coders or Robots acting out code.

Coders may need to try a few times before the Robot does what they intended. Iteration is part of the fun!



# Create a Girl-Powered STEAM Reading List... and Make Sure Boys are Reading Them Too!



# In Virtual STEAM Learning Teachers Can Support Parents By...

- Communication
- Materials / material lists
- Balancing types of learning
- “At-Home STEAM Center”
- Suggestions for continuing learning



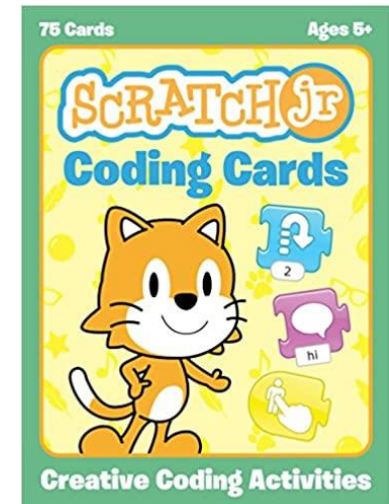
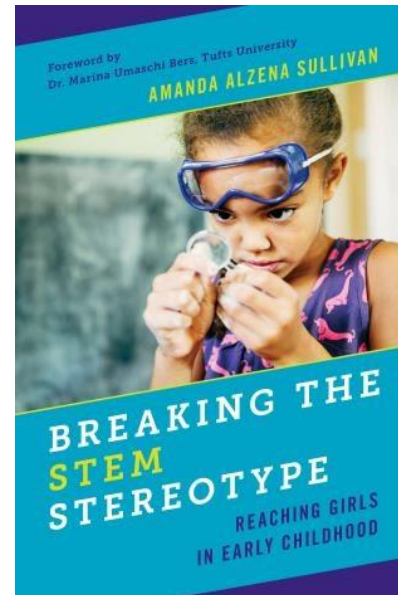
A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a yellow sweater, smiling and hugging a young girl from behind. The girl is wearing a yellow and orange checkered dress and is laughing joyfully while looking at a laptop screen. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor setting with a window showing greenery outside.

## Parents and Teachers Can Support Young Learners By...

- Fostering a Growth Mindset/  
Praising the right way
- Modeling a willingness to fail
- Modeling positive attitudes
- Fostering fun, silly, artsy experiences

# More Resources

- [ScratchJr At Home](#)
- [ABC's of STEAM](#)
- [Inspiring STEM Learning for Young Girls](#)
- [STEAM Learning at Home: How to Break Stereotypes & Inspire Young Children](#)



@AASully



@keikisullivan

national center for

women &

INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
<title>My personal website</title>
<meta charset="utf-8">
<link rel="stylesheet" href="css/style.css">
<script src="js/main.js"></script>
</head>
<body>
<div id="container">
<div id="header">
<h1>My Website</h1>
</div>
<div id="content">
<div id="mytag">
<img alt="mytag" data-bbox="100 450 200 550" />
</div>
</div>
</div>
</body>
</html>
```

**THE  
IDEA  
YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE**



**IS THE  
VOICE  
YOU  
HAVEN'T  
HEARD.**

**NCWIT.  
Inclusion changes  
what's possible.**

# Framing a Supportive Classroom Climate Setting Up and Maintaining a Frame

Lecia Barker, Senior Research Scientist, NCWIT  
September 2, 2020

LIFETIME PARTNER



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



INVESTMENT PARTNERS



# Overview

What does it mean to frame classroom climate?

How is framing accomplished?

- Set the frame with “survey” results

- Maintain the frame throughout the term with teaching practices









Each piece sold at auction for over \$120,000



Why did people hesitate to buy Banksy art on the street for \$60, but others spent \$120,000 when they were presented as museum pieces?

We draw meaning about situations and events through interpretive frames: structures of beliefs, perceptions, and values specific to those situations. For the most part, these remain unspoken until somehow called into question.

# Thinking about classroom situations



Convey knowledge, skills

Hope these end up in  
students' heads and hands

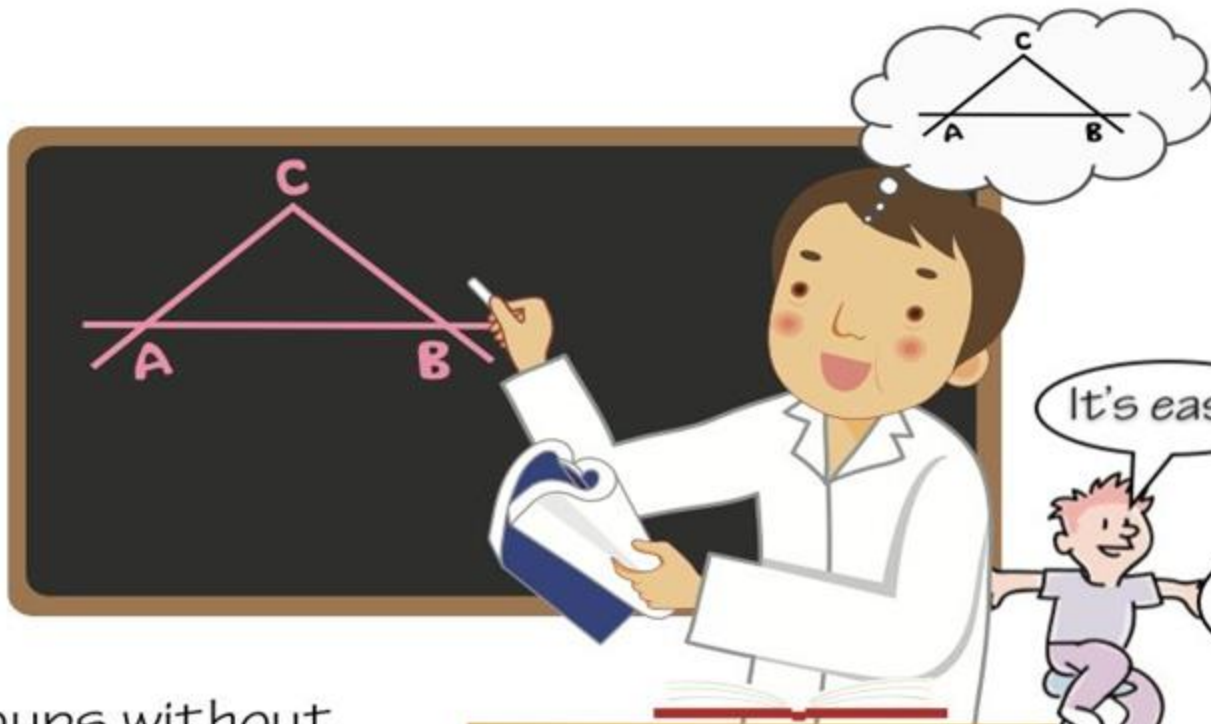
Facilitate learning  
experiences

Concerns about others'  
perceptions

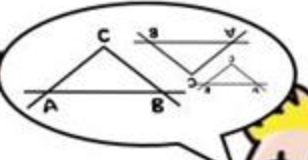
Aware of show offs, quiet  
folks, in-between

Desire to belong

Factors unrelated to the concepts being taught or the quality of instruction can have unexpected, powerful influences on student learning.

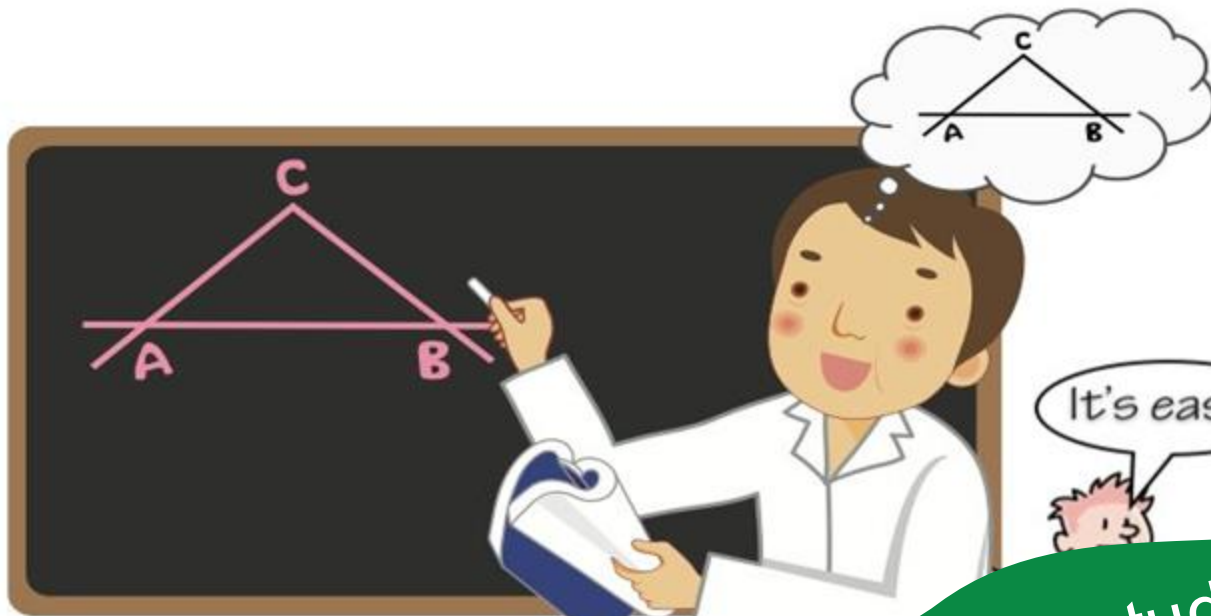


It's easy!



Groups without preparatory privilege at risk

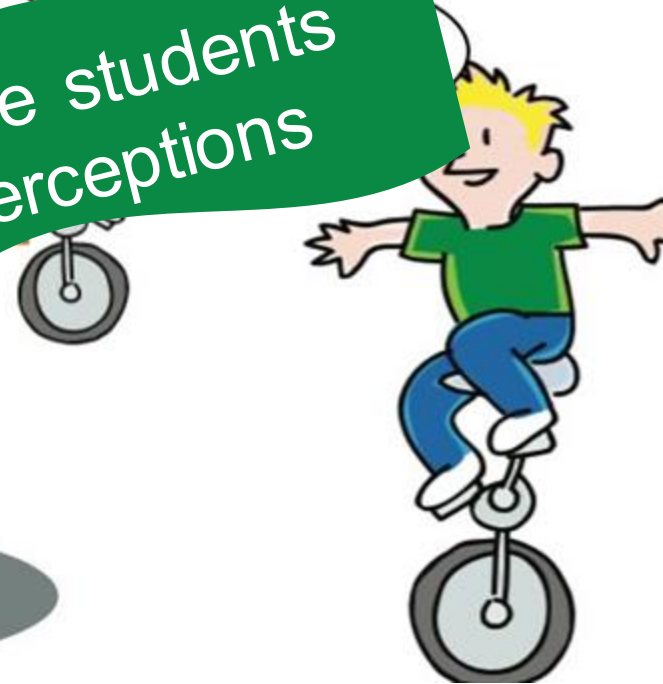




It's easy!

The most visible students  
can distort perceptions

Groups without  
preparatory privilege  
at risk







**I DON'T BELONG**



I'M DONE



# Teachers can...

*Design* the classroom social experience through framing

*Preempt*

- Experiences that trigger beliefs that one doesn't belong or lacks the qualities needed for success
- Stereotype threat

Framing is creating a context or perspective that strongly influences interpretation of events.

# Framing Summary

**Set up** the interpretive frame at beginning of term

- Conduct survey or interactive poll
- Present results describing expectations for how students interact, what they already know,

**Maintain** the frame through teaching choices

- In class: encourage interaction  
randomly call on individual students, pairs, or groups

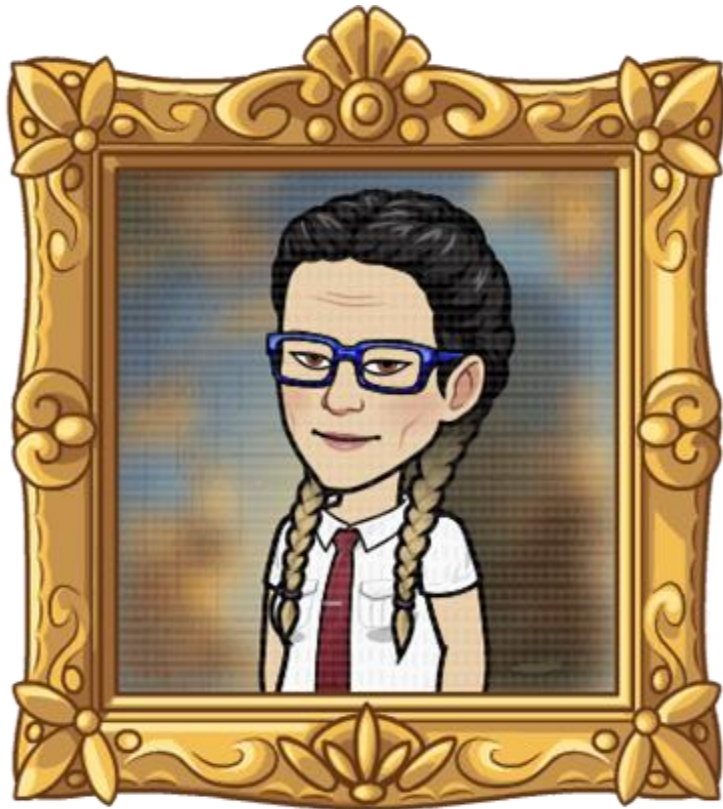
- Application, practice

**Collaborative learning**

pair programming, scaffolding for debugging, evaluation of others' work,

grading criteria: inclusivity

# Setting up the Frame



Ask a series of questions that allow you to set the stage for expected behavior and teaching practices

Connect to students' emotions, desire to express themselves, and compare themselves to their peers

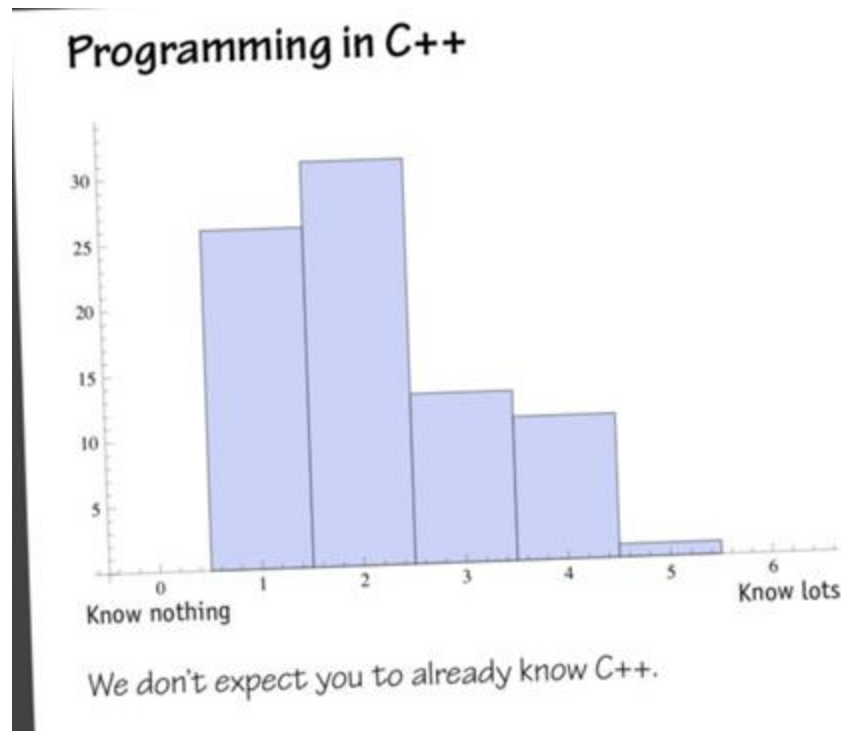
People in this class have varying backgrounds and experience with programming.

How much experience do you have with programming?

Scale: 1=Nothing, I've never programmed  
4=A lot: I have learned >1 programming language

Downplay the value of experience: display less learning

Make it clear that no prior knowledge is expected, but that students vary in their background





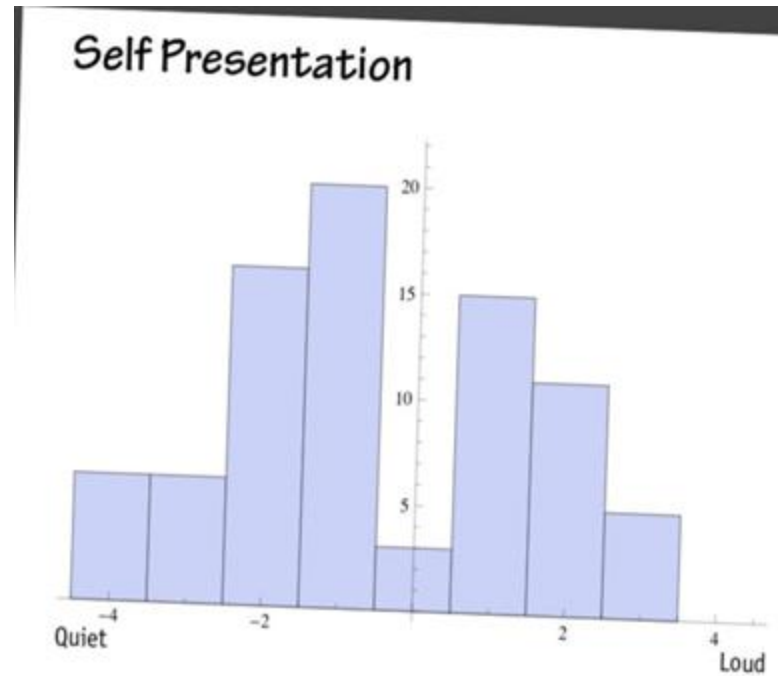
We can describe people based on how confident and outgoing they seem. Of course, this has nothing to do with what people actually know about or know how to do, just how they appear to others. How often are the following statements true of you?

I'm quiet in class: I generally let other people talk and I just listen. If others take charge, that's fine with me.

I'm loud in class: I often learn by hearing myself talk during classroom discussion. I don't mind being the center of attention.

Scale: 1=Never, 4=Always

Go outside of your comfort zone, a good opportunity for professional development and contributing to everyone's positive class experience



We can broadly characterize people based on how they react to making mistakes. Tell us where you lie between these two extremes:

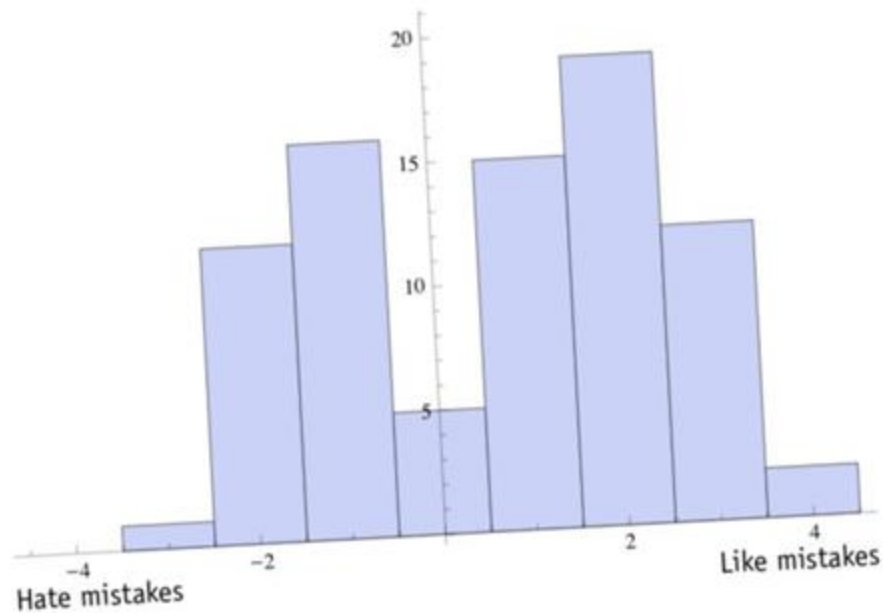
I hate mistakes. Making mistakes makes me feel stupid. It's even worse if it happens in front of people.

I like mistakes. You can't learn without making some mistakes. Most mistakes are nothing to be ashamed of or worried about.

Scale: 1=Never, 4=Always

People learn through trial and error; this classroom is a safe environment to make mistakes students can learn from. Mistakes contribute to everyone's learning.

### Attitude to Mistakes/Errors



Explain class content and what students will learn, but reiterate that they are not expected to know it now. Explain how you have designed for their learning, but emphasize their need for hard work (growth mindset). Connect the learning to real life.

I expect to learn a lot in this class.

I expect to improve my discussion skills.

I expect to work hard toward a good course outcome.

I expect to be able to use what I learn in this class in other classes, at work, or in college.

Scale: 1=Strongly Disagree; 4=Strongly Agree

Show excitement about the field, how important this knowledge is. Be sure to ask as “what” rather than a yes/no question, to imply that they should be excited.





Discuss what will students know as a result of taking this class that can benefit them in the future. Acknowledge that they may be looking forward to just getting through the class.





# Maintaining the Frame



Avoid favoring the most vocal students by random selection

Adjust classroom dynamics with think/pair/share, small group problem solving

Use collaborative learning for application and practice to reinforce belief that students can and should learn from each other

Classroom décor

# Full-class experiences

Randomly select participation with trading cards

## Rules

Ask question first

Turn over card

Students can partially  
answer

Ask a question of their  
own

Pass (card goes back  
in the deck)



*Have a plan for students who continue to blurt*  
*Ask students to make their own cards!*

# Full-class experiences

Randomly select participation with a random name picker

## Rules

Ask question first

Randomize

Students can partially answer

Ask a question of their own

Pass (equal chance of being called on for next question)



*Have a plan for students who continue to blurt*

# Full-class experiences

Use cooperative techniques to reduce fear of speaking up

Think/pair/share

Group problem solving

Giving feedback in online documents



# Classroom décor

I use computing to take pictures of black holes.



Digital agriculture to address hunger worldwide

Fireflies have internal clocks!

I build smarter robots.



A Visual History of Satellites

Show students that they can use computing in all sciences.

# Application and practice

Collaborative learning techniques

E.g., Pair programming

With instruction for structure and behaviors



# Resources & Templates

Google survey form for Setting Up the Frame

<http://bit.ly/SetUpFrameForm>

Google presentation form for sharing survey results

<http://bit.ly/FramingPresentation>

Framing Classroom Climate Summary and Instructions

<http://bit.ly/FramingInstructions>

Virtual Classroom Décor and Classroom Climate  
Webinar & Annotated Slides

[www.ncwit.org/virtual-classroom](http://www.ncwit.org/virtual-classroom)



# THANK YOU!

LIFETIME PARTNER



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



INVESTMENT PARTNERS





# Questions?



Dr. Amanda Sullivan



Dr. Lecia Barker

# Upcoming NGCP Webinars



## *Neurodiversity and STEM Education*

Monday, September 21, 2020

**Register on the NGCP website**