

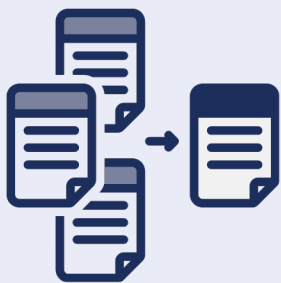
What are Strategies to End College Courses in Mindset-Supportive Ways?

Just like instructors can adopt strategies to start college courses in mindset-supportive ways, instructors can also adopt additional strategies for ending their courses in mindset-supportive ways. Mindset-supportive endings can:

- Reinforce growth and confidence by highlighting how much students have learned, how they overcame challenges, and how their abilities developed through effort, strategies, and persistence.
- Strengthen purpose and relevance by helping students connect what they learned to future classes, careers, or personal goals, ensuring they see the lasting value of their investment.
- Deepen belonging and community by recognizing contributions, expressing gratitude, and celebrating shared accomplishments, which can improve students' overall sense of belonging and persistence in college.

Why use Strategies to End College Courses in Mindset-Supportive Ways?

The way a course concludes can leave a lasting impression on students' confidence, value, and sense of connection. Endings are not just about wrapping up content; they are about helping students integrate what they've learned and carry it forward into future courses and life experiences.



Practice Overview

This document provides a brief overview of different strategies to end college courses in mindset-supportive ways.

Resources for Further Reading

Eggleston, T. J., & Smith, G. E. (2002, March 4). Parting-ways: Ending your course. Observer, Association for Psychological Science. <https://www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/parting-ways-ending-your-course>

Rudenga, K. (2024, April 22). 7 ideas to perk up your last day of class. The Chronicle of Higher Education. <https://www.chronicle.com/article/7-ideas-to-perk-up-your-last-day-of-class>

View the TBR Mindset Resource Repository

More Resources





1. Reflection and Synthesis

- **Final reflection:**
Ask students to write or present on 'What are the 3 most important things you learned?'
- **Concept maps:**
Have students create a map showing how major concepts fit together.
- **Letter to a future student:**
Ask students to write advice to future students about succeeding in the course, reinforcing their own mastery.



2. Reinforce Growth, Confidence, and Study Strategies

- **Pre/post self-assessment:**
Have students revisit the course's learning goals and reflect on growth.
- **Success stories sharing:**
Each student shares a challenge they overcame and what helped.
- **Mastery badges or certificates:**
Provide informal recognitions of specific skills gained.
- **Study strategy resource guide:**
Have students co-create a list of study strategies and other helpful resources for future students.



3. Reinforce Purpose and Relevance

- **Next steps discussion:**
Facilitate a discussion on how the knowledge and skills gained in their course can apply to students' future and everyday lives (e.g., ask students to write or present on "How can you connect the 3 most important things you learned to your future classes, career, or everyday life?").
- **Future challenges brainstorm:**
Have students identify how what they learned can help address real-world problems.
- **Guest speaker or panel:**
Invite older students, alumni, or professionals to discuss how course concepts matter in future classes and beyond college.



4. Reinforce Community and Promote Lasting Bonds

- **Gratitude circle:**
Invite students to thank peers or the group as a whole for support or insights.
- **Compliment wall/kudos board:**
Create a digital or physical space where students post positive messages or thanks to classmates.
- **Class celebration:**
End with a gathering (virtual or in-person) to foster positive associations.
- **Closing ritual:**
Establish a tradition for your course's final day that marks a shared accomplishment (e.g., passing a symbolic object, shared affirmation).



5. Showcase Achievements

- **Final project presentations, poster sessions, or gallery walks:**
Let students present their work to peers to build pride and community.
- **Class portfolio:**
Compile exemplary work (with permission) into a digital collection to share.
- **Mock conference:**
Organize a symposium where students present their work in a more professional way.



6. Solicit and Act on Feedback

- **Exit surveys with meaningful questions:**
Ask what most helped students build their growth and confidence, see purpose and relevance, and develop a sense of belonging in their class experience.
- **Invite suggestions for future students:**
What would they keep or change about their class experience?

Final Tip:

A thoughtfully designed final class or week might include a mix of these strategies, such as reflection activities, showcasing final projects/work, and a final community-building session.