Examining Core Beliefs about Intelligence

The John McEnroe and Michael Jordan biographies illustrate two very different mindsets. Test your ability to distinguish between the two mindsets by completing the Mindset Questionnaire, found on the next page. Can you identify which statements personify the fixed mindset and which reflect the growth mindset?

After discussing the two mindsets and sharing the biographies of John McEnroe and Michael Jordan with your students, provide them with a copy of the questionnaire. Encourage them to analyze the 25 statements and see if they can distinguish between those statements that reflect the fixed mindset, and those statements that reflect the growth mindset. Ask them to reflect in writing on their core beliefs about intelligence.

Student Reflection:

1. Write an informative essay, comparing and contrasting the fixed and growth mindsets.