



Framing Our Teaching in Terms of Assets, not Deficits

Flex Day: April 21, 2022
Ray Lapuz
David Hasson



Session Description

By the end of this session, participants will be able to identify framing in terms of assets instead of deficits, switch out deficit framing for framing in terms of assets, and explore the implications of framing in terms of syllabi, assignments and assessments. Framing our own mission statements in terms of students' assets as opposed to their deficits is a powerful process that can lead to radical shifts in how we view our syllabi, assignments, and assessments. This workshop will provide meaningful examples as well as opportunities to practice.

Motivation: REMLI

USC Race and
Equity Center

BENSIMON
& ASSOCIATES

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Congratulations on being
selected for the **Racial Equity
in Mathematics Leadership
Institute** sponsored by the
USC Race & Equity Center
and **Bensimon &
Associates**



Activity: Personal Mission Statement

Write one sentence with no commas or semicolons explaining what you want students to gain from your class. Then write a second sentence explaining what this demands you do.

[Personal Mission Statements Google Slide Deck](#)

How to design:
Green: Content
Yellow: Main Text
Red: Title

Thank you to Sophia C. Lee @ Citrus College for giving this Template

Name

Mission Statement #1

Mission Statement #2



David Hasson's Mission Statement

My mission as a math instructor is to make sure my students don't fail their next math course. So it is important that I police the classroom to make sure that students are on task and that their mistakes are caught early so that they may be corrected as soon as possible.



Introduction to Asset Framing

The Power of Asset Framing: A Conversation with Trabian Shorters

By: The Skillman Foundation | Sep. 24th, 2018

“How do we create equitable outcomes for all members of our community?
We can start by defining people by their aspirations, not their challenges.”

This method of thinking, commonly known as “asset-framing,” has become an essential part of the way Trabian Shorters views his work as the founder & CEO of BMe Community (Links to an external site.). The Miami-based organization has developed a network of innovators, leaders, and champions who invest in aspiring communities across the country and help develop positive change. For Shorters, recognizing people as assets to their community has helped drive his organization’s impact and tell a more accurate story of the groups they serve.

Defining “Asset-Framing” and How It Can Be Applied

Trabian explained asset-framing and describes how it can be applied in philanthropy and throughout our daily lives.



Narrative Is A Key Part in How We Frame Our Lives

Next, Trabian identified the important role narrative plays in our life and how it influences our understanding of identity, decision making, and the people around us.



It's Our Responsibility to Care About Each Other

In order to create a more caring society, Trabian thinks philanthropy needs to do a better job of bringing people together under a common cause.



The Dangers of Using a Stigmatizing Narrative

Trabian also explained the dangers of philanthropic organizations using stigmatizing or negative narratives in their work. While on the surface these tales of deficit and despair seem effective in inciting action from stakeholders and gaining sympathy from the larger public, they can also stigmatize the communities they intend to serve.



The Power of Sharing Truthful Narratives

Finally, Trabian shares the importance of telling truthful narratives that will positively influence future generations and inspire people to work toward a common goal.





BLOG Exercise

Consider the following blog post from:

<https://www.chcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/UnderstandingAssetFramingGuidelinesAuthors.pdf>

Original Lede:

The Latinx community in the United States has always been, for the most part, on the bottom half on income in the American society. The struggle to have access to health and mental care is part of their own history. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has come to intensify the problems. There are some issues that can no longer be ignored, especially in California, the state where now this group is the majority with approximately 15 million out of 40 million.

What language in the following is deficit framed?



BLOG Exercise

(continued)

Revised Lede:

Since 2014, Latinx people have constituted the largest ethnic group in the nation's largest state. They now represent 39% of the California population, and in recent years Latinx residents have made significant advances in economic well-being as measured by such metrics as reduced poverty rates and growth in business ownership. The number of Latinx people elected to school boards, local offices, and the state legislature also has increased significantly. Despite this impressive social and economic progress, Latinx residents have lagged other Californians in achieving important goals like home ownership and income growth. We can now add to that list the disproportionate harm visited on that community by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Revisit David's Mission Statement

Deficit Framed:

My mission as a math instructor is to make sure my students don't fail their next math course. So it is important that I police the classroom to make sure that students are on task and that their mistakes are caught early so that they may be corrected as soon as possible.

Asset Framed:

My mission as your math instructor is to help you unlock your sense of fun when it comes to math. I want make our classroom to be a place where you feel safe to make mistakes as valuable part of play.

Revisit YOUR Mission Statement

The whiteboard template is divided into several sections. At the top left, there is a 'How I'm doing:' section with three colored boxes: a green box labeled 'Green I got this.', a yellow box labeled 'Yellow Maybe help.', and a red box labeled 'Red Help!'. To the right of these boxes is a text area that says 'Thank you to Sophia C. Lee @ Citrus College for giving this Template'. On the top right, there is a blue rectangular area labeled 'Name'. Below these sections are two large white rectangular areas labeled 'Mission Statement #1' and 'Mission Statement #2'. At the bottom of the whiteboard, there is a tray containing several markers.

How I'm doing:

Green
I got this.

Yellow
Maybe help.

Red
Help!

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Why Asset Framing?

- Why do you think this is important?
- How might it benefit you and your teaching?
- What might this do with your relationship with students?

More Topics?

- An Equity-Minded Syllabus
- Alternative to Timed Tests and Other Assessments
- Assignments that Generate a Sense of Belonging



Thank you

