
Educator Worksheet: *Empowering Every Student* —
Strength-Based Teaching Strategies

Section 1: Reframing the Narrative

Prompt:

In your own words, how would you define strength-based teaching?
How does it differ from deficit-based approaches you've encountered?

Reflection Questions:

- What assumptions do I currently hold about student ability?
 - How might those assumptions shift if I focused on strengths first?
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Section 2: Foundations and Frameworks

Prompt:

Review the key concepts: positive psychology, asset-based pedagogy, culturally responsive teaching.

Activity:

Match each framework to a classroom practice you've used or want to try.

Framework	Classroom Practice
Positive Psychology	
Asset-Based Pedagogy	
Culturally Responsive Teaching	

Section 3: Discovering Student Strengths

Prompt:

List 3 ways you currently identify student strengths.
Then brainstorm 3 new methods you'd like to implement.

Current Methods:

1.

- 2.
- 3.

New Ideas to Try:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Section 4: Leveraging Strengths in Instruction

Prompt:

Choose one unit or lesson. How could you redesign it to center student strengths?

Planning Grid:

Lesson Topic	Student Strengths to Highlight	Strategy to Use	Expected Outcome
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Section 5: Feedback and Assessment

Prompt:

Reflect on your current feedback practices.

How can you make them more strength-based?

Rewrite Exercise:

Choose a recent piece of feedback you gave. Rewrite it to emphasize growth, effort, or unique contributions.

Original Feedback:

Revised Feedback:

Section 6: Equity and Empowerment

Prompt:

How does strength-based teaching support equity in your classroom or school?

Discussion Questions:

- Whose strengths are often overlooked?
- How can I amplify those voices and assets?

Section 7: Challenges and Advocacy

Prompt:

Identify one barrier to implementing strength-based strategies in your context.
What's one step you can take to address it?

Barrier:

Action Step:

Section 8: Personal Commitment

Prompt:

Write a short commitment statement:
What will you do in the next month to empower students through strength-based teaching?

My Commitment:
