

# One-Pager: The Myth of 'Lazy' Students

## Key Idea:

Students aren't inherently lazy—often, they are disengaged because learning lacks relevance, challenge, or ownership. By tapping into their interests and giving them meaningful roles in learning, we can reignite their motivation.

## Why It Matters:

Labeling students as 'lazy' ignores the real issue: disengagement, classroom environment, or external pressures. If we shift our approach, we can foster curiosity, resilience, and a love for learning.

## Quick Activity: Scaffolded Student Interest Map

1. **Set Up (2 min):** Provide students with a blank sheet of paper, digital document, or use an online tool like Padlet.
2. **Brainstorm (5 min):** Ask them to write down topics, activities, or skills they enjoy inside and outside of school.
3. **Share & Connect (5 min):** Students pair up or form small groups to share one or two interests. As a class, brainstorm ways these interests could connect to various subjects (e.g., history, math, science, language arts).
4. **Apply (5 min):** Provide a subject-neutral prompt: "How could you use one of your interests to explore or demonstrate learning in any subject?" Students write or discuss how their interest can be applied in different areas (e.g., using music to understand fractions, sports to analyze physics, or storytelling for history).

## Reflection Questions:

- What patterns or surprises did you notice in student interests?
- How can you integrate these interests into lessons or projects?
- What small shift could you make tomorrow to increase engagement?

## Next Steps:

- Try weaving student interests into a lesson next week.
- Let students choose their project format based on what excites them.
- Observe and note changes in engagement when students see their interests reflected in class.