

Habits of Mind

Striving for Accuracy



What does it mean?

Avoiding errors and being precise! Checking your work and editing it with care. Always presenting your best. Avoiding careless mistakes. Checking your facts and the claims you make. Looking for sound evidence.

When should you use it?

Whenever you need to present your best effort. When accuracy matters, for example in solving calculations. When you are preparing an important piece of work or presentation. When you need to rely on evidence.

Strategies to help

- Check it twice, then check it again. Check it backwards, check it one step at a time.
- Have a buddy check, ask them to be honest, "Is this the quality you expect from me?"
- Use tools and strategies that will make your work accurate, e.g. rulers for straight lines, dictionaries for editing.
- Check your facts, evaluate your sources, look for supporting evidence, and evaluate the alternative opinion or point of view.
- Aim to get it right the first time and reward yourself when you do. Take the time you need to do it right, doing it over always takes longer.

Questions to consider

1. Can you trust the piece of evidence? How do you know it is true? Is it fact or opinion? Is there an alternative point of view you must consider?
2. What is causing you to make mistakes? Your understanding or your working?
3. Is there a pattern to your errors?
4. Take pride in what you do well and use it to inspire you to improve the things you don't e.g. A great story deserves accurate spelling and neat handwriting.