



## Directions

February 8, 2017

From [Building a Better Teacher](#) by Elizabeth Green:

“But the more I learned about Magdalene and her teaching, the more I saw that what looked like mind reading was the result of extraordinary skill, not inborn talent. Her success did not depend on personality, which – inward, pensive, and measured – was in many ways the opposite of Hollywood’s mythic teachers. Instead, Magdalene’s success relied on a body of knowledge and skill that she had spent years acquiring. Teaching, as she practiced it, was a complex craft” (p. 9).

Committing to continually improving our teaching skills is one way that we practice our growth mindset development. The Match Mini that I have highlighted below, [Giving Clear Directions](#), is an example of one skill that, when practiced and applied, has the potential to save time, create smoother transitions and leave more time for learning.



I would love to know what skills you have committed to improving. Please continue to share through email and twitter and remember to include #FloridaMindset so that I can include your insights in the Featured Tweet section below.

Best,

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## Featured Tweet



## Hot Topics in Tallahassee

### 2017 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

This year's *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* was a huge success as middle school students from across the state competed in the POP-UP Quiz Show, and elementary, middle and high school students competed in the literacy-based Civics Service Project. Fort Lauderdale High School put together a spirited [kick-off event](#), and we were thrilled to have First Lady Ann Scott share her passion for reading in schools throughout the week.

You can learn more about the contest winners [here](#).

Thank you to our *2017 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* sponsors. With the support of the Florida Lottery, LEGOLAND, Scholastic and the Florida Education Foundation, we are able to make an impact on student achievement.

### Students & Educators Honored at 2016 Hispanic Heritage Month Reception

Due to Hurricane Matthew, the annual Hispanic Heritage Month Reception at the Florida Governor's Mansion had to be rescheduled for January 30, 2017. The 2016 theme was "Honoring Hispanic American Heroes," and Governor Rick Scott and First Lady Ann Scott honored the student art and essay contest winners, along with the Excellence in Education educator award recipients.

The art contest was open to all Florida students in grades K-3. The following winners were awarded \$250:

- Karla Angelica Valencia-Gonzalez, Seminole County

- Victoria Grace Sanchez, Miami-Dade County

In the essay contest, one winner was selected from an elementary, middle and high school. The following student essay winners received a four-year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation:

- Ailanie Sanchez, Duval County
- Madilynn Vidal, Miami-Dade County
- Cristian Ramos, Manatee County

Nominated by students and peers, each of the following teachers received \$1500, provided by Volunteer Florida as Excellence in Education award recipients:

- Rossana Chiarella, Miami-Dade County
- Carla Ford, Seminole County
- Mirelys (Mindy) Goode, Volusia County

To view photos from the event, click [here](#).