

# Formative Assessment Techniques

TO FIND EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

## No Hands Up

### Materials

- NA

By calling on only those students who raise their hands, teachers allow students to decide themselves whether or not they will participate in the lesson. Employing the 'No Hands Up' technique is a beginning move toward a highly engaged classroom. Randomly calling on students holds everyone accountable for active participation, gives

the teacher a broader picture of student thinking, and increases learning.



Photograph provided by Microsoft

### Procedure:

The teacher asks a question, allows wait time, and then randomly selects a student to answer the question. No hands are raised unless a student is in need of clarification and has a question.

Adapted  
from:

### **Embedded Assessment**

By Dylan William

© 2011

Solution Tree  
Press

### Ensuring participation:

- ◆ **High tech methods:** There are phone apps now in which student names can be entered and drawn at random. Interactive whiteboards often have a randomization device, and randomization programs for computers can be found on the internet.
- ◆ **Low tech methods:** Student names are written on slips of paper (Popsicle sticks, tongue depressors, cards), and drawn at random. Once drawn, the name is replaced so the student knows he must continue to pay attention.
- ◆ **Dealing with "I don't know."** Teacher responds: "OK, I'll come back to you," and then, after calling on other students, returns to the original student to repeat the answer he thought was the best. For those students that say they don't know simply because they don't want to think, ask "OK, but if you did know, what would you say?"