

RESPONSE CARDS

Strategy 36



Response cards are pre-printed, write-on or student-made cards that are held up simultaneously by all students. They display responses to questions or problems presented by the teacher. Response cards may contain pictures and/or words that are content specific (i.e., science terms, mathematical operations, grammar) or they can contain generic symbols (yes/no, agree/disagree). Response cards may also consist of a blank writing surface, whereby students write their responses.



- Enables every student to respond, reducing passive participation or day dreaming.
- Assists teachers in ongoing monitoring of student progress.
- Allows students to learn from one another.
- Are highly motivating and add an element of fun.
- Provides for wait or think time before accepting answers.
- Increases on task behavior.
- Increases overall learning.
- Provides for a differentiated product or assessment of learning.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Determine the type of response cards based on the instructional delivery. A few examples are yes/no, content-specific or student write-on cards.
2. Instruct students on the acceptable procedures for using response cards – where to hold the card, how to point to a response, etc.
3. Deliver instruction to students.
4. Elicit responses from students.
5. Note responses either formally (written documentation) or informally (observation).
6. Move to the next teaching interaction or re-teach, based on the responses provided by the students.
7. Make written or mental notes of students who are struggling with the content. These students could become a flexible group for small group instruction.

EXAMPLE



"If response cards were used instead of hand raising for just 30 minutes per day, each student would make more than 3,700 additional academic responses during the school year."

~Heward et al, 1996.