

*Elementary
Edition!*

CHAMPS

Classroom Management

Tip of the Week

Opportunities to Respond

How can I improve student participation during instruction?

One strategy is to increase student “Opportunities to Respond.” An OTR is defined as any prompt from the teacher that seeks a response from the students (verbally or nonverbally). Providing students frequent opportunities to respond is important because research suggest that increased student responding is linked to on-task behavior and engagement during instruction (Carnine, 1976; Sainato et al., 1987; Sutherland et al., 2003). When students are engaged and actively responding to questions, teachers can focus on academic content rather than being concerned with inappropriate student behaviors.

Examples of OTRs include:

- Turn and Talk
- Rally Robin, Round Robin, etc.
- Equity (popsicle) sticks
- Silent signals (thumbs up/down, agree/disagree)
- Two-sided response cards (yes/no, true/ false, agree/disagree)
- Choral response
- Stand up if...
- “That’s me!” prompts

When faced with “stand and deliver” instruction, some students will **passively** disengage, while others may **actively** disengage. Consider adding the following techniques to a direct instruction lesson to increase student engagement. As always, be sure to narrate the positive behavior you see!

- Whiteboards or laminated paper
- “Tell/Teach/Ask your partner...”
- Post-it Notes
- Multimedia hooks
- Sketch notes
- Quick draws
- Quick writes/response
- Twitter summaries (140 characters or less with hashtags!)

To learn more, check out *Teach Like a Pirate* (Burgess) and *Total Participation Techniques* (Himmele)!