

Show of Hands

Description:

Show of hands is a quick formative assessment strategy to determine if the students understand the information/concept being discussed. Once the information is given, ask the students to show a "thumbs up" or a "thumbs down" signal underneath their chin. A "thumbs up" means they understand the material and a "thumbs down" means they are not comfortable with the information yet. The teacher can immediately see the results and adjust his/her teaching during the rest of the class period or the following day based on the results provided.

Cultures of Thinking
in the Crusader Nation



Show of Hands

How to Use the Strategy:

1. Teacher presents material/topic planned for the day.
2. Ask students to show a “thumbs up” or a “thumbs down” sign underneath their chin (where no one but the teacher can see it).
*A “thumbs sideways” could also be used to indicate that the student is not sure.
3. A “thumbs up” means the student understands the material and could explain it to someone else, and a “thumbs down” means the student is not comfortable with the information yet.
4. If a large number of students show a “thumbs down” (or “thumbs sideways”), the teacher adjusts his/her teaching for the remaining part of the class period or for the next day.
5. Students learn how to evaluate their positions with the Show of Hands and make adjustments for their learning.