

Formative Assessment Strategies to Gauge if Students are Learning in the Moment

Activity	Directions
Thumbs Up!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the class a question with which you want to gauge their level of comprehension. • Ask the class to show a “Thumbs Up” if they understand. • Ask the class to show a “Thumbs in the Middle” if they are unsure. • Ask the class to show a “Thumbs Down” if they do not understand. • Based on how the majority answers, provide needed clarification around the content area.
Carousel Brainstorming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split the class into groups. Each group should have a large piece of paper with a question or prompt related to the content area. Each group should also be given a different color marker. • Ask each group to respond to the question or prompt, capturing their prior knowledge of the content area. • Ask groups to move around and review the other groups’ contributions, and while reviewing, underline content that they also know to be true and add content that might have been missed. • Provide clarification on the content area where applicable.
Four Corners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the class a question related to the content area. • Assign answers to each of the four corners of the room and ask class members to move to a corner based on which answer they select. • Once all the class members are in a corner, ask the formed groups to discuss why they selected that answer. Ask each group to elect a presenter to report out to the larger group what they discussed. • As each group is sharing, class members can change their answers by moving to another group. • Provide clarification on the content area after all groups have shared.
Think-Pair-Share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the class a question related to the content area. • Instruct the class members to first think about the question and write down some thoughts. • Then, have them turn to their neighbor and share their thoughts with one another. • Have each pairing share what they discussed with the larger group. • Provide clarification on the content area after all groups have shared.
Muddiest Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute index cards near the end of class. • Ask the class to write down the muddiest (unclear) point of today’s lesson. • After class, review the cards and provide clarification at the next session.
Exit Ticket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute index cards near the end of class. • Ask the class to describe the key takeaway from today’s lesson. • After class, review the cards and provide clarification at the next session if needed.

Learn about more strategies:

- Learning Assessment Techniques by Elizabeth F. Barkley & Claire Howell Major
- Classroom Assessment Techniques: A Handbook for College Teachers by Thomas A. Angelo & K. Patricia Cross