Engaging Students Using Participation Techniques

Creating a classroom where everyone is engaged, thinking and learning

In a study of 4th–8th graders, researchers found that 25% of students never participated in class, and in a study of secondary science classrooms, researchers found that 29% of the 1,245 students observed were completely silent.

In this two-day session, participants will examine research-based strategies from a variety of sources including Shirley Clarke, Persida Himmele and William Himmele. The strategies learned will increase student engagement and promote critical thinking skills – both of which are essential to student’s conceptual understanding of content. These will include:

- explaining the relationship between engagement and cognitive load,
- analyzing a lesson to determine the degree of cognitive engagement of students,
- explaining the relationship between formative assessment, student motivation and engagement, and
- integrating techniques into daily lesson plans and unit plans that result in cognitive engagement of all students.

Participants will walk away with strategies that can be applied to any content at any grade level.

Who should attend?
Classroom teachers and instructional coaches grades K - 12 who are interested in increasing the level of engagement of every student.

“When a teacher embeds pro-engagement action and attitudes into everyday practice, the question is not if students will be engaged in classroom learning, but how they will choose to engage and how far that engagement will take them.”

Katy Ridnouer, Everyday Engagement: Making Students & Parents Your Partners in Learning, 2011