



3 Ways to Use Hold Ups to Encourage Distance Learning Participation

Shared by Dr. Anita Archer in a conversation with Pivot Learning's Dr. Monica Ng and Dr. Carrie Thomas Beck

Many of the techniques we use in a physical classroom to encourage active participation — and build the language skills of students with word reading difficulties like choral or partner responses — don't work as well in a virtual classroom. But don't despair! You CAN keep students engaged and actively participating in lessons even when teaching remotely. Give hold ups a try.

Hold-Up Technique #1

1. Ask a question, then hold a sheet of paper up to your camera with an answer written on it.
2. Have students write Agree or Disagree on their own piece of paper.
3. Prompt students to all hold their papers up to their cameras at the same time.

Hold-Up Technique #2

1. Ask a question, then hold up a sheet with a list of multiple choice answers. Be sure to number the list rather than use letters.
2. Ask students to hold up the number of fingers that corresponds to their answer choice.

Hold-Up Technique #3

1. After you've asked a question, ask students to write their answers on their own whiteboards or pieces of paper.
2. Prompt students to all hold their papers up to their cameras at the same time.

With each of these hold-up techniques, you can unmute a few students, one at a time, and invite them to share why they chose their answers.

Get More Advice for Supporting Students with Word Reading Difficulties

Visit pivotlearning.org/library to watch additional videos featuring Dr. Anita Archer and other experts with tips for adapting instruction and intervention for distance learning. You'll also find many other resources to build your knowledge of word reading difficulties, including dyslexia.