

Definition: calling on students to participate in class when they have not volunteered

Benefits:

* Build confidence – shy students more likely to participate
* Maintain accountability – everyone is accountable for content
* Assess learning
* Improve conversations

Do not use:

* As a punishment or “Gotcha”. This can cause embarrassment or resentment.
* If the question only has a right or wrong answer.

Do use:

* As a step in the process of asking good questions and an opportunity for students to share understanding and opinion.
* With short, open-ended, and interesting questions.

Techniques:

* Introduce students to cold calling policy early on in class so they expect it to happen.
* Begin question with a request for an opinion or background information and then lead into specifics from assignment.
* Implement a method to call on students randomly (name cards, wooden sticks, attendance chart, etc.)
* Ask a question. Provide 1-2 minutes for students to turn and talk with partner. Then cold call on any student as the student has had time to think about it and hear what others are thinking.
* Ask a question. Provide 1-2 minutes for students to quick write. Then cold call on any student as the student has had time to organize thoughts.
* Provide an option to pass or call on another student to assist.