

Whip Around: Good Strategy for Summarizing and Formative Assessment

“The whip around is a useful instructional tool teachers can use to check for understanding in a group setting and for summarization. While the “whip around” strategy may not provide individual, student-level information about understanding, it is useful in helping teachers determine if they need to re-teach content to the group. As such, the “whip around” strategy is often used as a closure activity at the end of a period of instruction.”

“The procedure is fairly simple. First, the teacher poses a question or a task. Students then individually respond on a scrap piece of paper listing at least 3 thoughts/responses/statements. When they have done so, students stand up. The teacher then randomly calls on a student to share one of his or her ideas from the paper. Students check off any items that are said by another student and sit down when all of their ideas have been shared with the group, whether or not they were the one to share them. The teacher continues to call on students until they are all seated. As the teacher listens to the ideas or information shared by the students, he or she can determine if there is a general level of understanding or if there are gaps in students’ thinking.”

Suggestion: To add a little more accountability to the strategy, the teacher should collect the scrap paper as a ticket out the door.

Ex: 9th health education class – students were to identify the risk factors for suicide.

Source: *Checking for Understanding* pg. 34-35
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