

Opportunities to Respond Menu

Get more evidence while students are learning—not only after the lesson is over.

Use OTRs as micro-formative assessment. The goal is not simply participation. Use responses to decide whether to continue, clarify, reteach, or extend.

WHEN I NEED TO...	POSSIBLE OTR
Everyone answers at once	Individual whiteboards · Response cards · Hand signals
Hear student reasoning	Turn-and-talk · Partner checks · Quick writes
Retrieve prior learning	Retrieval questions · Choral response
Capture responses for later review	Short digital response · Quick write
Check confidence or readiness	Hand signals · Response cards

QUICK RESPONSE OPTIONS

Individual whiteboards — Everyone answers; scan for patterns quickly.	Turn-and-talk — Hear reasoning before whole-group sharing.
Response cards — Fast choices, categories, agree/disagree, true/false.	Quick writes — Brief written thinking before discussion.
Choral response — Retrieval, vocabulary, facts, or fluent routines.	Hand signals — Confidence, choice, readiness, or quick checks.
Partner checks — Students compare and explain.	Retrieval questions — Bring prior learning back into working memory.
Short digital responses — Useful when quick collection or display helps.	

AFTER STUDENTS RESPOND, ASK:

- What did I learn from the responses?
- Who appears ready to move on?
- What misconception is showing up?
- Who needs another example or representation?
- Do I need more evidence before deciding?

PLANNING PROMPT

What will students do or say that lets me know whether learning is happening?