Active Participation: Engaging Them All
Elementary Schools

Anita L. Archer, Ph.D.
archerteach@aol.com
503-295-7749
Active Participation

- Think Pair Share
  - What are ways that students can respond in a lesson?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.
  - 8.
Active Participation

Think
- Have students think and record responses.
- As students are writing, move around the classroom and record their ideas and their names on an overhead transparency.

Pair
- Have students share their ideas with their partners. Have them record their partner’s best ideas.
- As students are sharing, continue to record ideas on the overhead.

Share
- Use the transparency for sharing with the class.
What active participation procedures were directly taught?
Video - Active Participation

- What other good instructional practices did you observe?
Active Participation - Choral Responses

(Use when answers are short & the same.)

- Choral Responses
  Students are looking at the teacher.
  - Ask a question.
  - Put up your hands to indicate silence.
  - Give thinking time.
  - Lower your hands as you say, “Everyone.”

Students are looking at a common stimulus.
  - Point to the stimulus.
  - Ask a question.
  - Give thinking time.
  - Tap for a response.
Active Participation - Choral Responses

- Choral Responses
  Students are looking at their own book/paper.
  - Ask a question.
  - Use an auditory signal ("Everyone.").

- Hints for Choral Responses
  - Give adequate thinking time.
  - Have students put up their thumbs to indicate enough thinking time.
  - If students don’t respond or blurt out an answer, repeat.
Active Participation -

**Partners** *(Use when the answers are long or different.)*

- **Partners**

  Assign partners.

  - Pair lower performing students with middle performing students.
  - Give the partners a number (#1 or #2).
  - Sit partners next to each other.
  - Utilize triads when appropriate.
Active Participation - Partners

Other hints for partners

- Teach students how to work together. LOOK, LEAN, AND WHISPER.

- Have students come to the “rug area” with their desk partner so that new partners do not have to be assigned.

- To facilitate partners at small group tables, tape cards on the table with the numbers #1 and #2 and arrows pointing to each partner.

- Change the partnerships occasionally (every three to six weeks).
Active Participation - Partners

Uses of partners.

1. Say answer to partner.
2. Retell content of lesson using a graphic organizer.
3. Review content (Tell, Help, Check).
4. Brainstorm (Think, Pair, Share).
5. Explain process, strategy, or algorithm using examples.
6. Read to or with partner.
Active Participation - Partners

Other Uses of partners.

1. Monitor partner to see if directions are followed.
2. Share materials with partners.
3. Assist partners during independent work.
4. Collect papers, handouts, assignments for absent partners.
5.
6.
7.
8.
Active Participation -
*Individual Turns*

**Less desirable practices**

#1. Calling on volunteers.

**Guidelines:**

* Call on volunteers when the answer is a product of personal experience.
* Don’t call on volunteers when the answer is a product of instruction or reading. Instead expect that all students could answer your question.

#2. Calling on inattentive students.
Active Participation - 
*Individual Turns*

- **Individual Responses**
  - **Option #1**
    - Have students share answers with their partners.
    - Call on a student.
  - **Option #2**
    - Ask a question.
    - Raise your hands to indicate silence.
    - Give thinking time.
    - Call on a student.
Active Participation - *Individual Turns*

- **Procedures for calling on students to insure that all students are involved.**

  **Procedure #1** - Call on students in different parts of the room.

  **Procedure #2** - Write names on cards or sticks. Draw a name.
Active Participation - Individual Turns

If a student is called on and says “I don’t know.” Scaffold his/her response.

Procedure #1 - Have student consult with his/her partner.

Procedure #2 - Have student refer to his/her book.

Procedure #3 - Have student tell the “best” of previous answers.

Procedure #4 - Tell student an answer.
Active Participation - *Written Responses*

**Written response**

- Gauge the length of the written response to avoid “voids”.
  - Make the response fairly short OR
  - Make the response “eternal.”

- To keep students from “sneaking” ahead.
  - Expose limited items on the overhead. OR
  - Have students put their pencils down to indicate completion OR have them turn their paper over.
Active Participation - Other Responses

- **Touch stimulus.**
  - Increases attention.
  - Allows monitoring of attention to stimulus.

- **Act out.**

- **Use hand signals.**
  - Useful to share categorical responses.
  - Carefully introduce and model hand signals.

- **Display answer with response cards.**
  - Have students write possible responses on cards or paper. (e.g., vocabulary words, story grammar elements, grapheme).
  - Ask a question. Have students display card or point to response.
What active participation procedures were used to involve more students?
Video -
Active Participation Procedures

- What other good instructional practices did you observe?
Passage Reading Procedures

What are some disadvantages of “round-robin reading” when the group size is large?
What alternative passage reading procedures were used?
Video - Passage Reading Procedures

- What other good instructional practices did you observe?
Active Participation - Passage Reading

**Choral Reading**
- Read selection with your students.
- Read at a moderate rate
- Tell your students, “Keep your voice with mine.”
  *(Students may silently read material before choral reading.)*

**Cloze Reading**
- Read selection.
- Pause on “meaningful” words.
- Have students read the deleted words.
  *(Excellent practice when you need to read something quickly.)*
Active Participation - Passage Reading

- **Individual Turns**
  - Use with small groups.
  - Call on an individual student.
  - Call on students in random order.
  - Vary the amount of material read.

- **Silent Reading**
  - Pose pre reading question.
  - Tell students to read a certain amount.
  - Ask them to reread material if they finish early.
  - Monitor students’ reading. Have them whisper-read to you.
  - Pose post reading question.
Active Participation - 
*Passage Reading*

**Partner Reading**

- Assign each student a partner.
- **Reader** whisper reads to partner. Students alternate by sentence, paragraph, page, or time (5 minutes).
- **Coach** corrects errors.
  - Ask - *Can you figure out this word?*
  - Tell - *This word is _____*. How word?
  - *Reread the sentence.*

**Alternatives to support lowest readers**

- Lowest readers placed on a triad and read with another student.
- First reader (better reader) reads material.
  - Second reader reads the SAME material.
- Students read the material together.
- Partners allowed to say “me” or “we”
What passage reading procedures do you/will you use?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.