

Strategies to Encourage Your Students to Participate

- Explain to students that you expect them to participate and why.
- Foster a sense of community in your class
 - Learn students' names and call them by name
- Respond positively to students' questions and comments (student participation is highly correlated with feeling confident)
 - If student is on the right track, say so
 - If student is close, but not quite there, ask follow-up question OR ask other students to add on. For example, "Susan got us started on this problem. Who can help with the next step?"
 - If a student is wrong, have student share their thought process on how they got the answer. Highlight steps that were correct and where they got tripped up. "That's a common mistake. The formula that you used assumes that this is a closed system. Let's read the problem statement again. What info tells us if this is an open/closed system?"
- Give students time to formulate thoughts. (Minute paper technique)
- Try small group discussion. (Think-Pair-Share)

Dominant talkers

- To quiet dominant talkers, try:
 - "We've heard a lot from students on this side of the room. I'd like to get some ideas from the other side of the room."
 - "We've had great input so far from John and Jane, I want to hear from someone who hasn't had a chance to share."
- Be aware of participation patterns, so that you really do get a variety of participants.
- Remember, sometimes students participate by listening.

Facilitating Discussion

- Highlight/summarize key points made.
- Ask follow-up questions to re-direct/re-focus discussion.
- Fill in the gaps.