

Strategy Name: Thumb Report

Thumb Report is a method for whole class checking for understanding* that relies on student self-reporting of understanding.

What it looks like

1. Teacher pauses during instruction and asks students to think about their understanding of a specific topic.
2. Students are given a clear 3 point rubric. The specific prompts are given each time, and made with reference to the specific topic.
 - a. Thumbs up = understood well enough to instruct others
Sample student language: "You understand it well enough to teach someone else"
 - b. Thumbs to the side = understood well enough to proceed
Sample student language: "You understand it well enough to go on, but not to explain it clearly"
 - c. Thumbs down = not understood well enough to proceed
Sample student language: "You need clearer instruction before we go on"
3. Students hold up one hand to show their level of understanding.
4. Teacher assesses student understanding based on the thumb report.

Essential elements:

- 😊 Whole class response (not asking an individual or group)
- 😊 3 point rubric: well enough to teach, well enough to go on, and not well enough to go on
- 😊 Teacher uses the information to make an immediate instructional decision
- 😊

Possible times/ways to use it:

- ✓ To assess whether instruction is moving too quickly
- ✓ To assess a particular step in a multi-step problem
- ✓ Use to assess understanding of directions (not just understanding of a topic)
- ✓

Possible times/ways not to use it:

- ✗ To ask about understanding of too much/too broad of material
- ✗ When the topic is a must-know (teacher may want to see proof that they know it)
- ✗

*checking for understanding should be considered a formative assessment. It is a way for the teacher to determine what clarifications or re-teaching are necessary.