Class Discussion by Post-it Note

Objective: To gather input from students who do not usually participate in class discussions.

Time: 1-5 minutes

Materials: Post-it notes (if possible the larger post-it notes work best)

Set-Up & Management:

- Pass out post-it notes so each student has one or two (having an extra allows students who make a mistake on their response be able to start again without having to stand out by asking for another post-it note).
- Pose the question to the students and ask them to take a moment to write their response on the sticky note provided.
- Give students 1-2 minutes to write down their responses.
- Ask students to, when they are finished, come and post their response on “this wall” (or white board – wherever you want the responses stuck).
- After students have had a chance to put their sticky on the wall read out all the responses.

Tips & Suggestions:

- I usually don’t allow students too long to answer a question as it takes up too much time. If students look like they are writing a small essay on their post-it note I say “you only need to write down one idea”.
- Often I will refer back to the responses throughout a lesson (or even over several classes) so will have the responses posted on a piece of flip chart paper or a wall in the classroom so I can still use the white board or another piece of flipchart paper.
- If you are going to read out all the post-it notes, read them all out. If the class is too large and you cannot read all of the notes out and there are common themes that you would prefer to emphasize rather than individual responses let students know you are going to look for common themes. It can feel very isolating to not have your response read out loud. Sometimes student’s handwriting is illegible or what they have written doesn’t make sense to me. In those cases I apologize for possibly reading it wrong, or I ask “can anyone tell me more about that response?”

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