**USING MODES OF RESPONSE**

The mode of response is the manner in which the teacher expects the students to respond. It may be by raising their hands, shouting out the answer, writing on their papers, showing on their fingers or any other mode of response. The important thing is that the mode of response be given to the students ***before the question*** so the students are thinking about the question rather than how, or if, they should answer. [For example:

“Please show me on your fingers the coefficient of the expression of 6x2 “.]

Mode of Response Task or question for students

Different modes of response give different quality of feedback and allow different types of involvement. Consider the differences benefits to management, involvement, feedback or focus in using the following modes of response:

1. Asking students to write answers on their papers
2. Calling on one volunteer to answer a question
3. Asking them to show an answer on their fingers

Use the table on the next page to enter you thoughts. Because each mode of response has different benefits, it is important to vary the mode of response.

It is convenient to establish an implied mode of response. That is, if you normally expect students to raise their hands, it is nice not to have to preface each question with that mode of response. This can be accomplished by asking your questions with your hand raised, and then positively reinforcing the students that raise their hands by saying something like the following for the students that have their hands up. “Thank you for your quiet hands. I have a quiet hand from Mary, and one from Angela, and one from Sam, and another from Amy, and one from Chaya.” After a few times it will not be necessary to raise your hand as the teacher, because the kids will realize that is the default mode of response. It will then only be necessary to specify the mode of response when it is different from the one usually used. [It will be necessary to periodically recognize or thank students with quiet hands raised to keep this behavior once it is learned.]

MANAGE THE DISCOURSE: If you forget to specify a mode of response before asking a question, you are likely to have a student or two call-out answers. When a teacher allows the students to call out answers at the whim of the student, the teacher loses the ability to control the time students are allowed to think about the question. This usually results in a few students shouting out the answers while the others, knowing that they will not get it as quickly as the few, will not even engage in thought about the question. The teacher must be able to control the "wait time" or “think time” if all students are to remain active participants in the learning process.

Examples of Modes of Response:

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| Mode of Response | Description of how it could be used to increase the number of students **engaged**, or get **formative feedback** about how students are processing or thinking, or **for some other purposes**. |
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