

## Thumbs-Up/Thumbs-Down

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Thumbs-Up/Thumbs-Down is a Formative Assessment questioning technique that works well as a dialogue strategy. It is a quick way to check for understanding and to keep the students involved in the learning.

### How to implement the strategy:

1. The teacher should ask the class a question based on the subject/topic being studied.
2. A pre-arranged signal should be established between the students and the teachers to signify they are ready to show thumbs-up or thumbs down; such as looking up at the ceiling.
3. When most of the students have an answer, the teacher should call on one.
4. When the student has stated his/her answer, the teacher should call out "Thumb Up! Thumbs Down!" The rest of the class should put their thumbs UP if they think the answer is correct, and their thumbs DOWN if they think it is incorrect.
5. If the answer is correct, congratulate the student and ask another question. If it is incorrect, ask another student for their answer (repeat until the correct answer is found), and again ask another question.
6. You could, stop after the correct answer has been given, to explain or discuss the question/answer with the class.
7. Variation – Thumb in the middle to signify “uncertain”.

### Additional resources:

1. Adapted from Wagner, Mark at Teaching Ideas  
<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/maths/thumbsup.htm>
2. <http://teachingthroughthearts.blogspot.com/2011/07/formative-assessment-thumbs-up-thumbs.html> - A blog for many Formative Assessment strategies
3. <http://ateachersjourney2010andbeyond.wordpress.com/2011/06/10/how-to-incorporate-formative-assessments-into-your-classroom/> - How to Incorporate Formative Assessments Into Your Classroom