

Examples of Active BRIEF Student Engagement Techniques:  
Orchestrating Understanding and Checks for Understanding  
*Keeping Students On task during Lesson Delivery- Passing the "Dead Man Rule!"*  
Diana Browning Wright

**Choral Responding: ALL**

Teacher asks for a word or phrase to be repeated. For Example, "Who was the President then?" Response: "Lincoln"; "6 +4=?" Response, "10!"  
Use for ONE right answer or for sentence you just gave.

**Heads Together" ALL**

Teacher asks students to confer with a partner or group to solve a problem or reach a conclusion quickly; follow up with random sticks

**Random Sticks Calling On Students: INDIVIDUAL**

Teacher pulls stick labeled with student's name; no hand raising to answer question.

**White Boards/Individual Cards: ALL**

Teacher asks for a word or short phrase or number to be written and then held up to view

**Cloze Read (Teacher) and Repeat at Pause (Students): ALL**

Teacher and students have same written material. Teacher reads and pauses and all must state the next word.

**Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down: ALL**

Teacher asks for a yes or no type of response with students showing thumbs to signify "yes" with thumbs up, "no" with thumbs down.

**Finger voting**

Teacher asks for decisions, e.g., "if you think Peter will win the prize in our story, hold up your index finger, if you think Joe will win, hold up two fingers, if you don't know, hold up three fingers; ready, SHOW!"

**Think, Write, Pair Share: ALL**

Teacher asks for reflection, pauses, then requests a brief written response; then asks for the answers to be shared with a partner, then asks for the partners to share with another pair.

**Teach your partner: ALL**

Teacher asks all "1"s to teach something briefly to the "2"; often later asking "2"s to teach something to a "1" For example, teach your partner how to subtract 7 from 22 after you have been teaching the skill.

**Total Physical Response Energizer: ALL**

Teacher physical cues student by raising hands high after she says, "class" Students copy the hands up. Teacher follows with a physical action (wiggling, bringing hands down on the desk, stomping feet, etc. Teacher repeats one more time.

**PALS Read short sentence : ALL**

"1" decodes in whisper; "2" processes (e.g., paraphrases, states big idea, gives personal relevance, etc. according to teacher direction; then switch roles.