

QUESTIONING TECHNIQUE

cold call

COLD CALLING is calling on students whether they have raised their hands *or not*. When a teacher uses this method, the question is asked and the teacher then indicates the name of the student who will respond. In this way, all students in the class must be prepared with an answer.

Typical questioning method:

“Can anyone give me a quick definition of metamorphic rock? I’m seeing the same hands up as the last question. Anyone else? I’m sure *someone* has an idea.” [Most students are planning on letting another student, *any other student*, respond.]

Typical questioning method:

“Tracy, we haven’t heard much from you today. Will you give us a quick definition of metamorphic rock?” [No one else is engaged because this was directed at Tracy.]

Cold call technique:

“What is a quick definition of metamorphic rock . . . [pause while ALL students plan an answer] . . . Mary?”

BEST PRACTICE Students may not be used to cold calling. Explain the technique before you use it. When students understand your rationale – to engage them all in a predictable, systematic, and positive way – they will feel more comfortable with the pace and high involvement level required of them by cold calling.

WRITE & RESPOND

How does this technique increase student learning?



For more information, read “Engaging Students in Your Lessons, Technique 22 Cold Call” (pp. 111-125) in *Teach Like a Champion* by Doug Lemov.