

Verbal Engagement

These ideas get students talking and thinking out loud.

1. **Open Discussion:** Pose a question and open the floor for students to share their thoughts and opinions.
2. **Partner & Share:** Have students pair up to discuss a topic or question for a few minutes before asking volunteers to share their group's key takeaways.
3. **Think-Pair-Share:** Ask a question, give students a minute to "Think" on their own, then have them "Pair" with a partner to discuss, and finally "Share" their ideas with the class.
4. **Popcorn:** After you ask a question, a student shares their answer and then "calls on" another student to share their answer, just like popcorn popping.
5. **Four Corners:** Label each corner of the room with a different response (e.g., "Strongly Agree," "Disagree"). Ask a question and have students move to the corner that best represents their opinion.
6. **Debate:** Divide the class into two teams to argue for or against a specific topic. This encourages critical thinking and public speaking.
7. **Q&A Session:** Give students a few minutes to write down questions they have about the topic, then open the floor for a question-and-answer session.

Written & Reflective Engagement

These ideas get students thinking and reflecting on their own.

8. **Quick Write:** Ask a question and give students 1-2 minutes to write down their thoughts on a piece of paper. This is a great way to start or end a session.
9. **Journaling:** Provide a prompt and have students spend 5 minutes writing in a notebook or journal. This is a great way for them to reflect on the topic.
10. **Brainstorming:** Give students a topic and have them write down as many ideas as possible in a short period of time. This helps them generate ideas and think creatively.
11. **Graphic Organizer:** Give students a simple diagram (e.g., a Venn diagram) and have them fill it out with information from the session.
12. **Mind Map:** Have students create a visual representation of the topic, with the main idea in the center and related ideas branching off.
13. **Goal Setting:** Have students write down a personal goal related to the topic and a few steps they can take to achieve it.
14. **Exit Ticket:** At the end of the session, have students write a one-sentence summary of the main takeaway from the session on a piece of paper and hand it to you as they leave.

Active & Hands-On Engagement

These ideas get students moving and using their hands.

15. **Role Playing:** Give students a scenario and have them act it out. This is a great way to practice skills like interviewing or public speaking.
16. **Show of Hands:** Ask a question and have students raise their hands to indicate their response. This is a quick and easy way to gauge understanding.
17. **Gallery Walk:** Have students create a small project (e.g., a poster) and display it around the room. Students can then walk around and view each other's work.
18. **Build It:** Provide students with materials (e.g., paper, markers) and have them build something related to the topic.
19. **Interactive Whiteboard:** Use a whiteboard to create a collaborative mind map or list of ideas. Students can take turns adding their thoughts.
20. **Quiz Show:** Divide the class into teams and have them compete in a quiz show related to the topic.
21. **Card Sort:** Provide students with a deck of cards with different words or concepts on them. Have them sort the cards into categories.

Brain Breaks & Well-Being

These ideas get students moving and help them refocus.

22. **Stand Up, Stretch:** Have students stand up and do a quick stretch. This helps them refocus and re-energize.
23. **Deep Breathing:** Have students close their eyes and take a few deep breaths. This is a great way to reduce stress and anxiety.
24. **Quick Dance Party:** Put on a short, upbeat song and have students stand up and dance for a minute.
25. **Walk & Talk:** Have students pair up and walk around the room while they discuss a topic. This is a great way to get them moving and talking.