

TOTAL PARTICIPATION TECHNIQUES TO ENGAGE STUDENTS

5 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

4 BENEFITS TO USING TPTS

15 CLASSROOM READY TIPS

BY PÉRSIDA HIMMELE AND WILLIAM HIMMELE

WHAT ARE TOTAL PARTICIPATION TECHNIQUES?

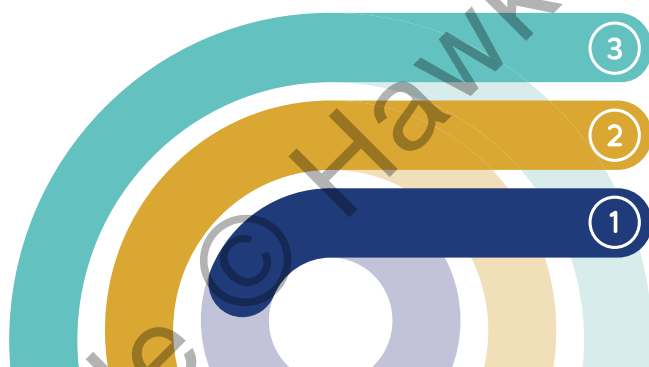
Total Participation Techniques (TPTs) are teaching techniques that allow for all students to demonstrate, at the same time, active participation and cognitive engagement in the topic being studied.

Typically, during a traditional Q & A session, a question is posed to the class and individuals raise their hands to respond. The problem with this method is that except for a small number of eager students who choose to respond, the teacher has little evidence that students are learning and doing so using deep levels of understanding. The responses of a small number of students are typically taken

as representative of the understandings for all students in the class. Unless your students are highly motivated by the topic being studied, the traditional Q & A format is very ineffective. In contrast, TPTs allow students to demonstrate that they are active participants and cognitively engaged in the topic being studied.

THE RIPPLE

The Ripple is a cornerstone to understanding how to create and implement Total Participation Techniques.



The Ripple **IS** a way of posing questions to maximise actual learning time.

The Ripple **IS NOT** a traditional Q & A session.

The Ripple **IS** a way to engage each and every student.

The Ripple **IS NOT** calling on an individual student for the answer.

The Ripple **IS** all students responding to a prompt using Quick-Writes or other TPT structures.

The Ripple **IS NOT** simply group work.

The Ripple **IS** beneficial for all students, especially English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) learners, socially tentative students, and students with special needs.

The Ripple **IS NOT** intimidating and does not put students "on the spot."

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF TPTs

- ★ Every student should be given opportunities to become deeply and cognitively engaged with the content.
- ★ Calling on someone should be the last thing you do (in terms of sequence). Instead, Ripple prompts for big questions so all students are required to deeply process the content.
- ★ Every student can have something worthwhile to share with the right Quadrant 4 (p. 3) structures (characterised by high student participation as well as cognitive engagement).
- ★ We're better together. The differences in our backgrounds and collective experiences add to the knowledge that we can share with one another.
- ★ What might have been considered a boring topic can become deeply engaging using the right Quadrant 4 structures.

