

Closing Activities

Closing activities greatly increase students' retention of information. The following activities are ideas for quick, easy activities to close out your intervention classes. They may be used as review, or to launch the next day's lesson.

3-2-1

3 things they learned, 2 things they have a question about, and 1 thing they want the instructor to know. You can use post-its, index cards, or whatever is convenient. This takes a little more time because they have to do multiple things. This activity can also be done orally as well: 1. Tell partner 3 things. 2. Write down 2 things. 3. Pick 4 people to tell 1 thing they want the instructor to know.

Commercial

Students record (audio only or video) a commercial for an upcoming class of students who are getting ready to learn what they learned. They need to "sell" the knowledge and make the class excited.

Exit Pass

Students must reflect in some way about the learning before being allowed to leave the room. Here are some sentence starters:

- I really understood this idea...
- I have a few questions about...before I can say I understand
- I am excited about...
- I'd like to learn more about...
- A question I have is...
- This point is really clear...

Explain a Procedure

Record the class orally explaining to an absent student what he/she missed in that day's lesson.

Lists

Have students create a list of single words that relate to the day's lesson.

Newspaper Headlines

Students compose a headline that encapsulates something they learned during the lesson. For added fun ask them to make it sensational, like a tabloid headline.

One-Minute Paper

Give students one minute to discuss with their partner or table what they learned in the day's lesson. Next, set the timer and have them write for one minute!

Parking Lot

Students are given a post-it note and asked to record key words, phrases, or ideas from the lesson. They then are asked to "park" their post-it note in the parking lot (pre-selected) for others to preview.

Postcards

Students are given an index card, (or an actual post card, or business card for a mini-version) and they write a postcard to their parents explaining the day's lesson.

Pair/Share

"Tell the person next to you..." Have students verbally summarize main ideas, answer questions posed at the beginning of a lesson, and link both past and future lessons.

Prediction

Students predict the topic of tomorrow's lesson—be sure to refer to the predictions the next day as the opener. You may have them put their predictions in the parking lot.

Snowball Fight

Students write something they learned on a sheet of scrap paper, crumble it up, and then when they are told, throw their snowballs at other students. Everyone grabs a "snowball" and reads the response. Make it anonymous, and teacher may call on students to share.

Quick Doodles

Doodle or draw 2-3 concepts presented in the lesson. This may include words or numbers.

Quiz Master

Students prepare one quiz question for the following day's review.

Single Sentence

Have students write a single sentence about what they learned.

So what's up with?

Students raise questions about something they either were unsure about or need clarification. Can be done orally or written.

Take a Stand

Teacher asks questions that can be answered with TRUE or FALSE. If the answer is TRUE, they will stand. If the answer is False, they will remain seated.

Thumbs Up/ Thumbs Down

Pose some questions that can be answered thumbs up/down/sideways. Ask for explanation of the decisions.

Whip Around

Students quickly and verbally share one they learned in class today. You can have them toss a ball from one to another, or just have volunteers. For example, "If your name starts with the last letter of the last student's answer you must share." To make this a safe exercise tell students it is okay to share the same thing multiple times.