

Get Students to Stop Shouting Out...While Still Feeling Heard

Are you having a hard time getting your upper elementary or middle school students to express themselves? Are your lessons being derailed by students shouting out or interrupting? I have a simple and realistic solution for you: hand signals.

Once I started using hand signals in my classroom, my students behaviors and focus significantly shifted. These hand signals were something that allowed my students to express themselves without interrupting or derailing my lesson.

Consistency is key with hand signals, and you must choose signals that you feel comfortable using. Modeling is the best way to reinforce and make utilizing hand signals a habit. Before you know it, you will see students using these signals outside of the classroom, and will have other teachers coming to you for help with how to initiate the use of hand signals in their classrooms.

I have included the symbols and their meanings below. The first sheet that can be glued/taped into students ISNs for reference. In addition to this, I have created a single sheet for each hand signal that can be posted in your classroom; silently reference the sheet if a student is shouting out or interrupting, a great way to remind students without further detouring your lesson/discussion.

For a deep dive about the hand signals that I use, and how I have my upper elementary and middle school students make this a habit, click on the link: [MY BLOG](#).



What Are You Thinking???



"Hang Ten"

Point your thumb towards your chest and your pinky finger away from you.

When you agree with what someone is saying, or if you have the same idea, rock your hand back and forth.



"Fingers Crossed"

Cross your index and middle finger.

When you have another way to explain something or have a different point of view, cross your fingers.



"Sideways Thumb"

Hold your thumb parallel to the ground.

When you are feeling confused or need additional clarification regarding a topic, hold your thumb sideways.

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