



7. Pause-Pose-Pounce-Bounce

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What's the idea?

A simple questioning technique designed to maximise the impact of questioning.

What does it mean?

Dylan Wiliam, a leading expert in formative assessment, criticises the typical questioning model, Initiation-Response-Evaluation, where a teacher repeatedly asks a question, gets an answer and then responds themselves.

Pose-Pause-Pounce-Bounce is a questioning sequence which is much more suited to elicit deep thinking. The teacher **poses** a question; **pauses** to allow suitable thinking time; **pounces** on one student for an initial answer; and finally **bounces** the answer to another student who builds on the response. If I-R-E is the 'table tennis' of questioning, think of P-P-P-B as 'basketball questioning'. This improve participation, engagement and understanding.

What are the implications for teachers?

This strategy is simple but there are a few important elements to be aware of:

- Ensure that you pause for long enough to allow sufficient thinking time. This will help students to improve their answers and increase their confidence
- Use bounce to formatively assess progress. You can also use it to encourage students to build on each other's points

- Try preparing both the pounce and the bounce stages of questioning. Anticipate the response you'll get and think about how you could use this to challenge another student.

Use this strategy regularly as part of your classroom routine so students expect it and are prepared to answer. Consider combining this with Think-Pair-Share and other questioning strategies.

TOP TIP / When deploying Pose-Pause-Pounce-Bounce, Wiliam suggests enforcing a 'no-hands-up' rule (except to ask questions).

Want to know more?

Wiliam, D. (2009) *Content then Process*. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=029fSeOaGio&feature=youtu.be>

Quigley, A. (2012) *Questioning – Top Ten Strategies*. Available at: <https://www.theconfidentteacher.com/2012/11/questioning-top-ten-strategies/>

Morrison McGill, R. (2011) *Pose, Pause, Pounce, Bounce*. Available at: <https://www.teachertoolkit.co.uk/2011/11/04/pose-pause-bounce-pounce/>

