



Classroom Assessment Techniques: Minute Paper

The *Minute Paper* is perhaps the most commonly used Classroom Assessment Technique. Sometimes referred to as the “One-Minute Paper” or the “Half Sheet Response”—the *Minute Paper* is a quick and easy way to collect written feedback on student learning.

To use *Minute Paper*, an instructor simply stops class two or three minutes early and asks students to briefly respond to some variation of two questions:

- 1. What was the most important thing you learned during this class?**
- 2. What important question remains unanswered?**

Students write their responses on index cards or half sheets of scrap paper and turn them in to the instructor.

Minute Papers are commonly used in lecture and discussion-based courses, but can also be used to assess what students learned during a lab session, from a video, or on a field trip. They are highly versatile, and in addition to being used at the end of a class period, they can also be used at the start of class, or during lecture as a warm-up or wrap-up activity.

The idea of a *Minute Paper* can be easily adapted. For example, use only one question and gather data regarding the big idea *or* the questions that remain. You can also tweak the questions to make them more specific:

- “What was the most illuminating example?”
- “What is the most convincing argument?”
- “Who is the most memorable character?”
- “Which image is most evocative?”

Minute Papers also provide a nice mechanism for getting students to talk in small groups. As an active lecture strategy, you can ask students to complete a *Minute Paper* and then discuss their ideas in pairs or triads.

If you would like more information about how to implement *Minute Papers* in your course, contact the Department of Teaching and Learning Support at ITLE.