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.