



Giving Directions

- **Clarity:** Word directions and questions carefully. Instead of saying "Does everyone have one?" say "Who needs a pencil?"
- **Modeling:** When possible model what you want the students to do. You can accomplish this by using yourself as the example or using several student to demonstrate the desired procedure.
- **Check for Understanding:** Student silence does not always indicate that students understand the directions. Check in with students to insure that they understand. Ask all students to "Turn to your neighbor and repeat the directions" OR "Turn to your neighbor and put the directions into your own words." Ask all students to "Stand up if you understand what you need to do next." For the students who remain seated, ask them to partner with someone who is standing to clarify the directions OR Ask several students to repeat the directions to the whole class.
- **Directions First:** Give directions before the students are given permission to move.
- **Organize First - Clarify Second:** Get small groups started on the first part of their task and then move from group to group to clarify each group's directions.
- **Task Cards:** Put directions on task cards - give each student or group a task card.
- **Tape Record Directions:** Audiotape the directions. Place a tape recorder at each group area. Encourage the students to listen to the directions as many times as they need to in order to understand the task.
- **Use Visuals:** Post the directions on the overhead or a flip chart. If multiple sets of directions are needed, color code each group's directions with a specific color.
- **Ask 3 Before Me:** Implement this class-wide rule so that students learn to ask three classmates their question before coming to the teacher. Oftentimes questions about directions can be answered by a classmate.
- **Color-Code:** As much as possible color coordinate directions and tasks. For example, group #4 follows the directions written in green on the overhead, has green task cards, and locates their work in the green file folder.