

Aloha e na kumu,

'Tis the season for Christmas shopping, spending time with family and for us...giving finals!! Because it is finals season, I decided to focus this week's strategy around formative assessment. This particular strategy is called the UPS check. In the video below. The strategy is used in a math class, but you could easily use it in any other content area. Below is a brief summary of the UPS check system.

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/ups-strategy-as-assessment-tool>

**U: Understand** – Do the students understand the problem. Do they know what is being asked? If not, maybe there is a reading comprehension problem to address.

**P: Planning** – Students plan out the steps to solve the problem. You could incorporate different techniques on how they can show this. This could be a good way to incorporate writing or to the strength of your students.

**S: Solve** – Students solve the problem.

**Check** - Explain why they used the process they chose and evidence for how successful they were in solving the problem (CCSS influence).

I like the way the teacher uses this strategy in her classroom because she has student collaborating with each other and she's monitoring the classroom during this assessment. This allows her to give immediate feedback and to adjust her teaching if needed. The downside to this strategy is that this looks like it could take some time in the class.

If you want sometime that takes less time and gives you a lot of immediate feedback, click on this link: <https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/daily-lesson-assessment>

But remember...these are not true formative assessments unless you use the students responses to inform your instruction. =)

FYI: Seeing that this is finals week, this will be the last Kyle's Korner until January. Enjoy the holidays and your time off from school. =)

**SLIP:** By using the UPS strategy, you can address the many aspects of Common Core (which are part of our K-12 Reading Achievement). If you recall from the Making the Shifts article, there is a shift to incorporating evidence-based writing into the classroom, which this strategy can do. You can also assess the reading comprehension of your students when they show how well they understand the problem they are being asked to solve. If a student does not understand the problem, you can discuss with the student the holes are in their understanding.

**Danielson Framework Domain and Components:**

Observed During Class	Does it apply?	Pre and Post Teaching	Does it apply?
<b>Domain 2: The Classroom at a Glance</b>		<b>Domain 1: Planning and Preparation</b>	
2a: Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport		1a: Demonstrating Knowledge of Content and Pedagogy	
2b: Establish a Culture for Learning		1b: Demonstrating Knowledge of Students	
2c: Managing Classroom Procedures		1c: Setting Instructional Outcomes	
2d: Managing Student Behavior		1d: Demonstrating Knowledge of Resources	
<b>Domain 3: Instruction</b>		1e: Designing Coherent Instruction	
3a: Communicating with Students		1f: Designing Student Assessment	
3b: Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques		<b>Domain 4: Professional Responsibilities</b>	
3c: Engaging Students in Learning		4a: Reflecting on Teaching	
3d: Using Assessments in Instruction	<b>X</b>	4b: Maintaining Accurate Records	

		4c: Communicating with Families	
		4d: Participating in a Professional Community	
		4e: Growing and Development Professionally	
		4f: Showing Professionalism	
<p>Notes: This strategy fits perfectly with 3d. As said earlier, the main idea of this component is monitoring student understanding and offering feedback when appropriate. Another element to consider is adjusting your lessons when needed to ensure student learning.</p>			