ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING STRATEGIES

TRAFFIC LIGHT

NO HANDS

• Is a strategy students can use to assess their progress toward achieving learning goals
• Is used by teachers to obtain immediate feedback on student understanding during instruction

When using a traffic light strategy to monitor student learning:

<table>
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<th>Students:</th>
<th>Teachers:</th>
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| • Assess their achievement of a learning goal by placing a coloured dot on their work—green to indicate confidence in achievement (“I've got it”), amber to indicate partial mastery or understanding (“I'm not quite sure; I have some questions”), or red to indicate little or no understanding (“I don’t understand this”) | • Scan the students’ traffic lights  
• Respond to the feedback by making instructional adjustments (e.g., pair up greens and yellows to clear up areas of misunderstanding or misconceptions, work with the reds to help them in a small group setting) |

Similar strategies include:

• Providing students with individual whiteboards and markers to provide brief responses to short-answer items
• Asking students to indicate their level of understanding using a “thumbs up, thumbs down” indicator
• Providing students with a set of lettered index cards (A, B, C, D, E, etc.), which they can use to indicate a response to a multiple choice question posed orally by the teacher

For further information, see:


1 Category of Assessment for Learning Practice—Peer and Self-Assessment