

## Using Oral Language to Check for Understanding Strategy

**Whip:** A good class closure activity

1. Teacher poses a question and/or a task.  
*"Make a list of 3 characteristics that distinguish insects from other creatures on Earth."*
2. Students individually respond on a piece of scrap paper.
3. Students stand up when they are ready.
4. Teacher randomly calls on students one at a time to share one of their responses.
5. Students check off any responses that are said by another student and sit down when all their ideas have been shared with the group, whether or not they were the one to share them.
6. Teacher continues to call on students until they are all seated.
7. Teacher listens to the responses shared by the students and determines if there is a general level of understanding or if there were gaps in students' thinking.

*(Adapted from Checking For Understanding  
Formative Assessment Techniques for your  
Classroom- Fisher/Frey 2007 ASCD)*