**Week of March 7, 2011**

**Give Me Five**

**Description:**

*Give Me Five* is a technique used to promote and publicly share personal reflections that collectively provide feedback from the group. Students are given a prompt and take a minute or two for a “quiet think.” Five students then volunteer to publicly share their reflection.

**How this FACT Promotes Student Learning:**

*Give Me Five* provides students with an opportunity to individually and publicly reflect on their learning during or after a lesson. This FACT encourages students to be thoughtful reflectors and demonstrates teachers’ respect and value for students sharing personal insights into their learning.

**How this FACT Informs Instruction:**

Selecting five students to publicly share their reflections provides a sample collage for the teacher to gain feedback on how students perceived the impact of a lesson on their learning. *Give Me Five* is a simple, quick technique for inviting and valuing public reflection and welcoming feedback from students that will be used to design responsive instruction.

**Design and Administration:**

Provide a reflection prompt that is inviting and open to a variety of responses by all students. Be sure to give time for individuals to quietly reflect, perhaps through a quick write, before asking for five volunteers to share their reflection. Practice the use of wait time if, at first, students are hesitant to share their thoughts publicly. This FACT can be used at any critical juncture in a lesson or at the end of a lesson or class period as closure. Hold up your fist, showing a finger each time a student shares a reflection until you have completed five fingers. Some examples of reflection prompts are as follows:

* What was the most significant learning you had during today’s lesson?
* How “in the zone” do you feel right now as far as understanding today’s concept?
* How did today’s lesson help you better understand subject-verb agreement?
* What was the high point of this week’s activities on chemical change?
* How well do you think today’s health discussion worked in improving our understanding of aerobic and anaerobic activities?

**General Implementation Attributes:**

Ease of Use: High Time Demand: Medium Cognitive Demand: Medium

**Modifications:**

Five is an arbitrary number. Depending on time and number of students, you might consider additional reflections, such as *Give Me Five Plus Three* (hold up one hand and three fingers). You can also ask for a show of hands for how many students had a similar reflective thought each time a student shares his or her thoughts.

**Caveats:**

Don’t overuse this technique or it may become a trivial exercise, particularly if the same reflective prompts are used. Be sure to vary the prompts. Make sure the same students are not the ones whose reflections are most frequently selected to be shared.

**This FACT can be used in the following disciplines:**

Science, math, social studies, health, language arts, foreign languages, and performing arts.

Keeley, Paige. (2008) Science Formative Assessment: 75 Practical Strategies for Linking Assessment, Instruction, and Learning. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press