

VIDEO SUMMARY

Tactics to Encourage Contributions

Resource person: Edutopia | Teacher-practice publication of the George Lucas Educational Foundation | Curated from Edutopia

Tactics to Encourage Contributions | Equitable Participation and Biases | dei

Classroom talk can look open while the same confident few carry most of it. Edutopia offers four small routines that spread opportunities more deliberately: participation cards, longer wait time, thumbs-up responses and equity sticks.

Each routine solves a different bottleneck. Cards and private signals let more students show readiness or understanding. A real pause after a question gives people time to form an answer. Randomised invitations can help a teacher notice and interrupt an unconscious calling pattern.

Set these tools up clearly. Give students preparation time, ask questions with several worthwhile entry points and allow a pass when the topic or access need calls for it. In a university class, pair random invitations with think-write-pair-share or a quick poll so every student has something to work from.

A simple participation tracker can reveal whether the routine is broadening the discussion. The useful question is who is gaining a genuine route into the learning, including students who contribute through writing, small groups or digital channels.