

## Door Passes (an activity for motivating all learners)

Performance Learning PLUS #31

In this activity, you ask students a question and have them write their responses on index cards. These cards will serve as their “door passes” — their “tickets” to leave — when class is over, when class is on a break, or for situations that require your special permission, such as when a student wants to go to the library. You collect the cards at the door as students leave.

This activity incorporates all the elements of SPECS\*: it makes students feel safe (S), it is purposeful (P), it encourages students in a respectful way (E), and it gives students control over their own learning (C), resulting in successful motivation for all learners (S).

\*For more information on SPECS, see e-newsletter issue #31 (May 2003) Motivating All Learners.

### **Title: Door Passes**

### **Objectives:**

- To encourage learners to connect new information to previous knowledge.
- To assess learners' current knowledge base.
- To give learners a safe, nonpublic way of making comments or asking questions.
- To allow you, the teacher, to make personal contact with each learner.

**Materials:** 3" x 5" index cards, one for each learner

### **Directions:**

1. Pass out index cards, one to each learner.
2. Ask a question and have learners write their responses on the index cards. Some general questions could be:
  - What is one connection you were able to make between what we learned today and a personal interest or goal you have?
  - What is one question you wish you had asked today, but were too confused or distracted to ask?
  - If you were teaching this topic, what additional information would you want to be sure to include?
3. At the end of class, position yourself at the door so you can make a personal connection with each learner as you collect his or her card.

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***Alternate Variation:***

- During group activities, use door passes to encourage groups to reach consensus by collecting only one card per group. Have group members reach consensus, even if it is only "We agree to disagree."

Source: The above concepts are based on the newly redesigned PLS graduate course *Designing Motivation for All Learners*<sup>TM\*</sup>

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