**Active Learning:**

**Add a little novelty, fun, and competition to help engage your students!**

**Ball Shoot Review (or whatever catchy name you’d like to give it)**

*Equipment needed: (Very little prep needed!)*

a target (I use my recycle bin), a smallish ball, content to be reviewed

*Set Up:*

Separate the class into equal sized teams, I like groups of 4.

Number the teams. Create a scoring grid on the board:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Team 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| ll | ll | lll | lll | l | ll |

Have the students take their notes, binder, review sheet, text, whatever you are reviewing with them as this is “open book” review and gather in set locations in the room. I number the teams clockwise so it is easier to keep track.

Once in their teams students quickly decide who is A, B, C, D**. Confirm this by prompting “all As please stand up” “Bs” and so on**

*Game Play:*

Each question the teacher asks is to be answered by only person “A” the first round. All members of the team may help figure out the answer during the set allotted group discussion time but when reporting out time comes only all person “As” stand up and answer.

Team 1 answers first. All teams are answering the same question each round. So really listening can pay off for the other teams. If the first person gets it right it is as simple as repeating the answer for the other teams. Repeated practice/ hearing hopefully helps everyone retain the information.

Teacher or student helper keeps tally score on board as teams take turns answering the question.

The FUN part. All students who answer correctly get the opportunity to score their team a bonus point at the end of the round by shooting the ball at the target from a set location in the room (I usually use the desk leg of the desk furthest back in the room as the “line” they have to shoot behind at the bin in the front of the room). If they get the ball in the bin a bonus point is awarded.

**\*Important**: Round Two team 2 answers first and team one answers last, so would go team 2,3,4,5,6,1 then round three would be team 3 then 4, 5,6,1,2. This sequence is important as it keeps the game fair in the sense of going last in a round is a big advantage because odds are the correct answer will have been shared earlier. Play as many rounds as you’d like to complete the game.

*Rules:*

Set time to prepare their answer. I use a countdown from 5 where once I get to zero teams must be silent and the person answering is to be standing ready to answer while the rest of the team is sitting quietly. **If not ready that team forfeits their turn that round.**

Absolutely **no call outs from sitting team members** they have had their chance to contribute during the team discussion of the answer time. **If they call out the team forfeits their turn.**

If more impactful consequence needed for call outs **teams can be docked points** as well (helps keep things under control).

No negative talk, being critical of teammates, may lead to removal from participating in the game.

*Some things to note:*

I like this procedure as it ensures 100 percent participation from all students in a safe supported environment. They all have to take their turn and even if they don’t know the answers the rest of their team can help them.

Need to be consistent in the enforcement of the rules to ensure excitement does not take over and distract from the learning purpose.

I first used this game in French class where students had to learn vocabulary and pronounce the word correctly to score a point and earn a bonus shot but have found it transfers to other subjects also.

Can add a small whiteboard/chalkboard for each team to record answer on and person whose turn it is can report out. Makes it so you can do math questions with this procedure. Adds a visual piece for learners to see in addition to hear to deepen learning.

If you have an odd number of students or a student that can’t/won’t do this for whatever reason you can assign them the job of score keeper and/or ball retriever (only one person to do this or there will be several scrambling for the ball)

Can use a “prize” for the winning team if you’d like to up the “competition” motivation.