



Learn a card trick from a college professor and how she calls on students in her classroom.

Kathryn A. Roe, Assistant Professor of Education at William Penn University, uses cards instead of asking students to raise their hands during participation. Here is how it works:

- Get two different-colored index cards.
- For each student, and yourself, put the same information on the cards, one of each color:
 - First and last name
 - Phone number
 - Any other relevant information
- Combine all the index cards and shuffle them, ready to be used for discussion.
- During discussion, students do not raise their hands. The teacher asks the class a question and calls on students by following this procedure:
 - Showing the name on the card or calling out the name on the card.
 - If the student answers correctly, put the card at the back of the deck.
 - If the student doesn't have the answer, or has a wrong answer, put the card back into the middle of the deck.
 - Because every student's name is in the deck twice, there is a greater chance the student will be called upon again during the class period.
 - If you pull your own card, respond appropriately to the question. The students seem to really enjoy when this happens!

This same card method can be used for other activities:

- Student reading: Call on students to read using the cards. Have each student read no more than two sentences. As the student who is reading says the last word in the two sentences, the teacher already has a new card turned up and says the next student's name.
- Divide the class into groups: Use the cards to quickly choose who will be in which group. Middle school students like this because they know the teacher isn't "picking on" them by putting them with someone they don't want to work with. It is random.
- Create a seating chart: separate the cards by color and use them to decide on a new seating chart.

Using the cards has many advantages:

- Calling on students becomes very quick, so students must remain engaged.
- Students believe that being called on is the luck of the draw, not some act of revenge or cruelty.
- Helps the teacher learn the students' names quickly.