

AET/Coordinators please share with your teachers. Have a great week!

6 WICORtastic Ways to Conclude Class

Classes take on a mind of their own several minutes before the dismissal bell rings, and unless a teacher is prepared and keeps the students engaged, a mob is likely to form at the classroom door as they wait to burst forth into the hallways.

To maximize instruction and maintain order, keep students engaged in learning by using some of these strategies to recap, debrief, or prepare for the next day's lesson:

- 1. Exit Tickets:** Distribute index cards or small sheets of paper, and give the students something specific to write on the card: the main idea of the lesson, one question they have, a self-evaluation of their performance that day, a final math problem or chemistry calculation, two things they learned, etc. As students leave, you stand at the classroom door and collect these exit tickets. It only takes a minute or two to flip through the exit cards to see whether the class as a whole "gets" what they learned that day and to identify specific students who may need extra help.
- 2. Recap with a Partner:** Ask students to find an elbow partner and to discuss what they learned today. They could explain a process to one another in their own words, summarize a lecture, or pick out the main ideas from the day's lesson. If time permits, ask several duos to share what they discussed with the class.
- 3. Note to Self:** Have students write themselves a quick note, which they will revisit at the beginning of the period next class. What do they want to make sure they remember from today when tomorrow rolls around?
- 4. Five Important Things:** A minute or two before the bell, stop the lesson and have the class generate a list of five important things to remember today. This could include a reiteration of the night's homework assignment, something they should bring to class tomorrow, important points of the day's lesson, or events at school they shouldn't forget. Encourage students to write reminders in their planners so they don't forget to do their homework or to study for tests and quizzes.
- 5. "Gimme Five" Poll:** If time is short at the end of class but you want to see how well students think they understand what they're learning or how they feel about their performance, ask them to hold up 1 to 5 fingers to indicate how strongly they agree with a statement you make. For instance, you could say, "Hold up the number of fingers that shows me how you feel about this statement. One means 'I understand it so perfectly I could teach the class,'" and five means 'I have no clue.' Show me how well you understand how to combine like terms to solve an

equation.” Continue polling your students until you get a sense of how much time you’ll need to spend on the concepts later before moving on.

6. Final Thought: At the beginning of class, quietly ask a student to give the “final thought” of the day, a summary or reflection on how class went. The student could summarize the big ideas, tell the class what went well or what could be better tomorrow, or reflect on the importance of the day’s learning. Then, the student giving the final thought gets to choose a classmate to give tomorrow’s final thought.