

How to Speak Up, Even When You're Scared: Strategies to Increase Student Participation in the Classroom

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High Level Strategies:

- Define the skill of speaking up as not just to having the right answer but a tool to help the class advance its thinking, illuminate tensions, refine positions, etc.
- Identify speaking up as a critical component of mastery within the field.
- Explain the importance of practice.
- Reflect on ways this skill will serve them in and out of Smith.
- Cultivate support seeking (and be willing to offer support).
- Set ground rules for reacting to speech you disagree with
- Survey your class with the prompt, "When I don't speak up in class, it's often because I...."

In the Moment:

- "I'm not looking for any right answer here. I just want to know what you think."
- "I'd like to hear at least [x] people on this question."
- Encourage debate and directly address the difference between conflict over an issue and conflict in a relationship.
- "I don't expect you to be perfect at this. I just want you to try."
- Pair share