

PATCH 4 – CHECK, CHECK 1-2, CHECKING IN WITH STUDENTS

Passageway:

“How many times have you, as a teacher, stood at the front of the classroom and asked: “any questions?” And how many of those times have you been met with blank stares, and silence? Have you, like me, resorted to a “Ferris Bueller” reference: “Anyone...? Anyone...? Bueller...? Bueller...?” only to be met, yet again, with blank stares from the much-younger-than-you-even-think-they-are, born in the post-Bueller era, students in the room?”

This passageway really resonated with me. Although I cannot gauge my learner’s facial expressions because a lot of my lectures are taught online, I can sense the same blank stares through my monitor screen.

I struggle with this because the amount of content I need to cover, to meet the lesson objectives makes it difficult for my students to have enough time to process the new content. How can I expect my students to understand the content when I am still catching my breath from delivering the new material?

I really like the idea of asking a question at the end of the lecture to gauge their understanding or non-understanding. I may try this by creating an online poll. Another idea that crossed my mind while reading this passageway was asking students to formulate their own questions with multiple choice answer options. If questions are well constructed and sound, they may see it on their upcoming test. This may entice the students to go over the material more thoroughly again and another way to gauge their understanding. If learners can formulate a good multiple-choice question, they would have to have a good understanding of the content.