

## *Research-based teaching tip*

# Confirmation

*Give students (individually or as a class) confirmation\* or positive feedback to in-class responses and activities.*

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### **Rationale:**

In-class teacher confirmation has been associated with reduced student apprehension, increased student motivation and communication, and enhanced learning outcomes.

### **Evidence:**

- Student-teacher relationships are positively associated with students perceived use of confirmation.<sup>1</sup>
- Increased use of confirmation decreases student apprehension.<sup>2</sup>
- Confirmation is associated with student's reported emotional interest and emotional support.<sup>3</sup>
- Use of confirmation increases cognitive and affective learning.<sup>2,4</sup>
- Increased teacher confirmation results in positive student communication changes, increased participation, and enhanced learning outcomes.<sup>5</sup>

### **Implementation:**

Engage in confirmation by recognizing and acknowledging students for their classroom efforts, using positive feedback to indicate that their communication and efforts are valued. Use confirmation at the individual student level and at the class level, when appropriate.

\*Confirmation is defined by one educational researcher as “the transactional process by which teachers communicate to students that they are endorsed, recognized, and acknowledged as valuable, significant individuals.”<sup>4</sup>

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### **Sources:**

<sup>1</sup>Leth, P. (1977). Self-concept and interpersonal response in a classroom: An exploratory study. Doctoral dissertation, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. (University Microfilm No. 78-13,080)

<sup>2</sup>Ellis K (2004). The impact of perceived teacher confirmation on receiver apprehension, motivation and learning. *Commun Educ* 53, 1–20.

<sup>3</sup>Goldman ZW, Goodboy AK. (2014). Making students feel better: examining the relationships between teacher confirmation and college students' emotional outcomes. *Commun Edu* 63, 259-277.

<sup>4</sup>Ellis K (2000). Perceived teacher confirmation: the development and validation of an instrument and two studies of the relationship to cognitive and affective learning. *Hum Commun Res* 26, 264–291.

<sup>5</sup>Goodboy AK, Myers SA (2008). The effect of teacher confirmation on student communication and learning outcomes. *Commun Educ* 57, 153–179.