## Chat Waterfall Universal Response Strategy



Chat Waterfall is a universal response strategy that allows teachers to informally question and informally assess student learning. This can be used in any virtual meeting room chat feature or in-person. The stress of answering a question is removed since all responses are posted simultaneously. This is also a great way for students to respond to each other's answers and encourages class participation.

## Chat Waterfall Routine (virtual meeting room):

- 1. The teacher asks the class a question and gives students time to think of their response.
- 2. The teacher asks the students to type their responses in the chat, but **DO NOT SUBMIT** until the teacher counts down and gives the signal to submit.
- When all students have been given enough time to type their responses, the teacher then counts down "3 - 2 - 1 - Chat Waterfall!" and all the responses simultaneously show up in the chat like a waterfall.
- 4. Students are given time to read and respond to the responses.

## Alternative Chat Waterfall Routine (virtual meeting room):

- 1. Divide the class into two groups. Group 1 students have last names that start with A-M, and Group 2 students have last names that start with N-Z.
- 2. The teacher asks Group 1 a question and gives students time to think of their response.
- 3. The teacher asks Group 1 to type their responses in the chat, but DO NOT SUBMIT until the teacher counts down and gives the signal to submit.
- 4. When all students have been given enough time to type their responses, the teacher then counts down "3 2 1 Chat Waterfall!" and all the responses simultaneously show up in the chat like a waterfall.
- 5. Group 2 is now asked to read through the responses and respond or comment to at least one. (Do they agree? Do they disagree? Which answer do they agree with the most and why?) They type their responses in the chat, but DO NOT SUBMIT until the teacher counts down and gives the signal to submit.
- When Group 2 has been given enough time to type their responses, the teacher then counts down "3 - 2 - 1 - Chat Waterfall!" and all the responses simultaneously show up in the chat like a waterfall.
- 7. All students are given time to read all responses in the chat.

## Chat Waterfall Routine (in-person):

- 1. The teacher asks the class a question and gives students time to think of their response.
- The teacher asks the students to write their responses on a whiteboard, scratch paper, A-B-C-D response cards, etc., but DO NOT SHARE until the teacher counts down and gives the signal to share.
- 3. When all students have been given enough time to write their responses, the teacher then counts down "3 2 1 Share!" and all the students share their responses simultaneously.
- 4. Students are given time to look around the room and view their classmates' responses.

