

Bellwork

Opening Activity: What is bellwork? What is/are its' purposes? How do you use it?

“Bellwork was originally initiated by public school educators as a classroom mgmt technique to get pupils “on task “ immediately. The name “Bellwork” comes from reminding students that ...each day immediately after the bell, practice work is done.”

Bellwork is a quick and effective monitoring/assessment tool for teachers. Harry Wong has been a strong proponent of the use of Bellwork in the classroom.

Objectives of using bellwork include:

- To improve student academic achievement
- To increase the retention of previously taught skills
- To familiarize students with concepts, skills or various strategies (ie test-taking)
- To give teachers a means to monitor student progress on a regular basis with no additional paperwork
- To provide a means of informal assessment
- To extend students' knowledge and skills of content at grade level
- To help students build confidence and self-esteem

Note: Ask students if they can add other purposes of bellwork to this list.

A sample assignment should be posted daily and consistently (Wong, pp122-125). Two rules of thumb:

- a. an assignment must be posted before the students enter the classroom
- b. the assignment must be posted in the same location every day. See page 122 (Wong) for a sample assignment for elementary and secondary

Note: This process leads and builds routines for students.

According to Harry Wong, “A teacher’s first priority is to get students to work, not to take roll.”(pg. 125) Remember, everything is intentional and linked to instruction