

## Teaching Tip: Checking Instructions

Last time we talked about giving simple instructions. This is the second part of that thought. This is a very simple technique that you probably haven't thought of before. It is very simple and very effective for improving the clarity of your communication and the students' motivation for staying on task. It is this: check instructions after you give them.

For example, you give these instructions:

"In a minute, I am going to hand out one newspapers and one pair of scissors to each person. You will have about six minutes to go through your newspaper and choose one article that interests you. It can be about anything as long as it interests you. Please cut out your article when you are done."

Right after saying this, you ask these questions:

"How many articles can you choose?" The students answer, "One."  
"What should you do when you choose it?" The students shout out, "Cut it out!"  
"Super! Here are your newspapers."

You now know that they are on track, and even better, they know that they are on track. Clarity breeds motivation!

Now you try it. Devise two checking questions for these instructions. My answers are on page 175.

"In a minute, we are going to do a scavenger hunt through the church building. When I am finished, you will get in groups of three. Every group needs a pen and one of these handouts. Once you have a group of three, a pen, and a handout, you may begin."