The Envelope Please
After Reading Strategy

Purpose: Designed to get all students to participate in the end of the period review of what was read.

Directions:
1. As students come into class, each one receives an envelop containing a question pertaining to the lesson of the day, or over the text that is being read that day.

2. At the end of the class period, each student will be responsible for orally answering his/her question as part of the whole class review.

3. The teacher dramatizes this by moving about the room stopping in front of a student and asking for “the envelope please”. The teacher reads the question aloud for the whole class and the student who held the envelope answers the question.

Suggestions, Applications, and Variations:

♦ Sealed or Unsealed? There is no right answer. If the envelope is sealed, students may pay closer attention throughout the class, on the other hand, if the envelope is unsealed, students may use the question to focus for that answer during the class. (Also, unsealed envelopes can be reused.)

♦ One option is to let students know in advance that there will be a few minutes at the end of class when they can open their envelopes and work with one or several other students to rehearse their answer.

♦ As a source for questions, take a review sheet and cut it into single questions to insert in the envelopes.

♦ To create a link between today’s class and tomorrow’s class, have students write the answer to their question as a homework assignment or in the last few minutes of class. To open the next class period, do, “The Envelope Please” as an oral activity.

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Adapted from Ron Brown, Scholastic Summer Institute, 2003