



Attendance Questions



As soon as the bell rings, Carson begins taking attendance with an “attendance question.” The question changes every day. Students respond when she calls their names with their response to the day’s question, and perhaps a brief justification for their response. “Okay, people, this is a big one today. Definitive answer. Coke or Pepsi?” On another day, she begins, “Okay folks, you’ve just been given a sampler box of Russell Stover candy, but the map is missing. You bite into a piece and much to your dismay, find out you’ve chosen a_____.”

Before long, the students bring her slips of paper and whisper, “Here’s an attendance question. This is a really good one.”

“I love the idea that I start off all my classes with every kid speaking, every kid having a right answer, right away,” explains Carson. “And then they also start to make connections around the room.”

Tomlinson, C.A. & Doughty, K.J. (2005). You’ve got to reach them to teach them. *Educational Leadership*, 62 (7), 8-15.