

Giving MVP Directions

THE CHALLENGE



“I gave the direction... and instantly, it’s swivel city, side convos, and blank stares. Why does ‘Get started’ never go how I imagine?”

We’ve all been there. You *said* what to do. But somehow students heard 15 different versions—and none of them look like what you pictured.

What’s Really Going On?

What seems obvious to us isn’t always clear to students. Phrases like “Work together” or “Get started” are open to interpretation. Without clear expectations, students guess—and guessing leads to wasted time, confusion, or off-task behavior.

TRY THIS INSTEAD



Give MVP Directions

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- Stand still, get student’s attention, and tell them what to do:
 - **Movement** – Where should students be?
 - **Voice Level** – What should it sound like?
 - **Participation** – What exactly should they be doing?

For example, instead of “*Turn and talk about question number 2.*”, try:

“When my timer goes off, close your book and put your pencil down. Turn to your partner and compare answers to question 2, using an inside voice and staying in your seat. You have 2 minutes. Go!”

Now, Make It Stick

- **Script** your directions into your lesson plan. If you don’t have a plan for them, they’ll have a plan for you.
- **Record** yourself giving directions and watch it back. **Check** for MVP.