

Technique: Snowball

- Students respond to a specific question or prompt for a period of time (usually 1-2 minutes). They are then instructed to crumple and throw their paper. Picking up a paper that was not theirs originally, learners read what is on the page and add their response or add to the thinking. They continue to crumple, throw, and respond until the teacher feels that students have captured what they know onto the pages.
- For the last crumple and throw, learners do not write on the final page they gather. This is the sheet that they use to provide ideas for the class brainstorm of responses. This provides an anonymous and safe way to share ideas, as students are sharing things that are not necessarily their own.
- When sharing back to the large group, the teacher and class synthesize and summarize the thinking on the snowball pages. If someone shares something that is incorrect, the teacher can give that feedback in a safe way. If a vague idea is shared, the teacher can ask questions of the group to clarify what that might mean.