

# 4. OPEN PALM ON CHEST

A simple, low-tech approach to gauge audience responses to multiple-choice questions during a lecture. It also has the added advantage of keeping respondents' answers relatively private (compared to more standard "hands up" techniques), and being applicable to audiences of all ages.

With thanks to Dr Yaël Nazé for suggesting this technique

Who:



What:



Data:



Time:



Gain:



GLOs:



## WHAT DO I NEED?

Nothing but your audience and a clear view of them – presenting at the front of a lecture theatre is perfect.

## LET'S GET STARTED

Ask your audience members to each hold one hand close to their chest in response to a question you pose. An open hand means "yes" and a closed hand means "no" (or true/false if you prefer).



Credit: A. Heward/Europlanet

Credit: Edita Stonkute/Europlanet 2020 RI



[Alternatively, you could just ask people who agree with a statement to hold one hand open on their chest, as in the picture here].

For example, you could ask:

***Does the Sun orbit the Earth?***

Looking around the room you can quickly see (roughly) what proportion of people have open palms compared to closed palms, and therefore better understand your audience members' knowledge. Holding their hands close to their chests also "feels less like school" and avoids the problem of influencing neighbours' responses.

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## OK, WHAT DO I DO WITH MY DATA NOW?

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Asking simple and relevant knowledge questions within your presentations will allow you

to better gauge the understanding and backgrounds of your audience, and therefore adjust your content appropriately. For example, if there were a lot of "no" responses to the above question then you might need to start with some basic facts about the solar system, however if the majority of people say "yes" then you can move on to other content more quickly.

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## SIMILAR TECHNIQUES

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**Traffic light** - Participants display coloured cards according to their responses / confidence / agreement relating to a posed question.

*With thanks to Rochester Community Schools (<http://www.rcsthinkfromthemiddle.com/traffic-light.html>) for this technique.*