

Practice Positive Narration

Positive narration is a powerful strategy but not intuitive for many teachers. As the teacher, you need to practice, practice, practice, so it becomes second nature.

Review the precise directions in the following chart. Then, challenge yourself to write two or three positive narrations for each set of directions. Use a student's name for each narration. After completing the table, in your strong teacher voice, practice with a colleague or in front of the mirror, giving the precise direction and then immediately starting positive narration.

Directions	Three Positive Narration Statements
"Silently walk to your seat and begin the Do Now."	
"Work with your partner at level-one volume to complete your fluency check. Chart your results at your station."	
"When I say <i>go</i> , move to your next lab station and begin working on the activity card with your group using level-one voices. You have seven minutes to complete this station. Go!"	

If you aren't sure if you are narrating effectively, try this: record yourself on video for fifteen minutes and count your positive versus negative statements. If you don't have video access, invite a colleague, coach, or administrator to come in for a few minutes and keep a tally for you. Use the data you collect to set your next goal for fine-tuning and expanding your use of positive narration. Remember, your goal is to make at least three positive comments for every redirection or consequence.