Catch and Release

**Purpose**
When students are working on their own, they often need clarification or pointers so they do not struggle for too long or lose focus. Catch and Release allows them to retrain their attention on the learning and seek the answers or clarification they need for any questions that have come up during the preceding work time.

**Materials**
- Optional: public timer

**Procedure**
1. Set a small, manageable “chunk” of work time for students.
2. Circulate during the work time. Synthesize and take note of persistent questions or confusions.
3. Bring the class back together after the work time. Very briefly, answer or clarify as needed any questions students have had about the work.
4. Repeat the cycle.

**Variations**
- A useful ratio of work time to checks for understanding or clarifying information is 7 minutes of work time (release), followed by 2 minutes of teacher-directed clarifications or use of quick-check strategies (catch).