A grab bag is a check for understanding technique that should be used as a secondary collaborative activity or a closer. In order to complete this activity, the SI leader will place items, concepts, questions, or instructions in a bag and each student will draw one item from the bag and respond to it. You could place items that they must identify or explain, vocabulary words that they must define, math problems they can solve, or objects that lead to the next main activity. The fun of a grab bag is that the students don’t get to choose what questions they want to answer, but will be surprised and must be prepared by taking thorough lesson notes!

The options are only bound by your imagination!

**Subject Specific Ideas:**

**Math:**
- Place cards with problems listed, and once drawn, the student must solve it.
- Geometry/Algebra: Place a problem in the bag and once drawn the student must state the formula or theorem they would use to solve the problem.

**ESL/Reading:**
- Vocabulary Review: Place vocabulary quiz words into the bag. When the student draws one, they must give the definition and use the word in a sentence.
- Patterns of Organization or Main Idea practice: Put a short paragraph in the bag. When a student draws it, they will read it aloud and either name the type of organization or label its main idea.

**English:**
- MLA grab bag: Place a book, a magazine, a newspaper article, an internet article, and a video in the bag. Once the student draws their item, they must create an MLA works cited entry for the medium.
- Grammar Errors: Write grammatically incorrect sentences that students must read to identify the error.

**Geography/Nutrition/Political Science:**
- Object Association: Place objects in a bag and have the student state how the object relates to the lesson. Example Nutrition: a “nutrition facts” chart, potato chip bag, and soda bottle. Example Geography: graph paper, mini map, globe bouncy ball. Example POSC: mini bible, library card, money.
- Antonyms: Write words/phrases that mean the opposite of a term you are studying. Then, students must state the real vocab word and give the definition.