

IMPLEMENTATION TOOL: Huddle Hype Calls

What It Is

Huddle Hype Calls are quick, 10–15 second motivational "pep talks" that students give to their group or team before beginning a drill, scrimmage, or challenge. The routine is low-stakes, energetic, and directly supports the *Voices of Victory* assessment by giving students authentic opportunities to practice motivational language before writing a full championship speech.

More importantly, it reinforces the idea that literacy isn't limited to reading and writing. Students develop speaking, listening, persuasion, vocabulary, and communication skills while simultaneously building a classroom culture where encouragement and leadership become shared responsibilities.

Setup

1. Create a rotation system (line order, squads, random assignment, etc.) so every student has opportunities to lead a Hype Call.
 2. Post 4–5 sentence starters to help students get started.
 - "We've got this because..."
 - "Stay focused on..."
 - "When it gets tough, remember..."
 - "The key to winning this drill is..."
 3. Introduce Huddle Hype Calls as a team tradition that happens before select drills, scrimmages, or challenges—just like a real pre-game huddle.
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How Students Engage

- Before beginning an activity, one student steps into the "coach" role.
 - The student delivers a 10–15 second motivational Hype Call.
 - Teammates respond with a class cheer, clap, or call-back.
 - Continue rotating throughout the unit so every student has opportunities to lead.
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Literacy Enhancement Strategies (*Optional*)

Teachers can layer any of the following strategies into Huddle Hype Calls without changing the pace or structure of the routine.

Weekly Coach's Playbook

At the beginning of each week of the unit, give students 3–5 minutes to write the Hype Call they will use if selected to lead that week. Students keep their draft throughout the week and are encouraged to revise it after hearing classmates' ideas or reflecting on what makes a message memorable.

Word of the Week

Introduce one vocabulary word each week (examples: *resilience*, *discipline*, *perseverance*, *confidence*, or *commitment*). Challenge students to naturally incorporate the word into their Hype Call, encouraging authentic application instead of memorization.

Weekly Communication Challenge

Give students one communication technique to intentionally practice throughout the week.

Examples include:

- Begin with a rhetorical question.
 - Use repetition for emphasis.
 - Tell a brief story.
 - Paint a vivid picture.
 - Finish with a strong call to action.
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Build Your Team's Vocabulary

After each Hype Call, invite one teammate to identify the word or phrase that made the message most impactful. Add these words to a visible "Team Vocabulary" display, creating a growing collection of student-generated language that reflects the identity of the class.

Why It Works

✓ **Engagement:** Students enjoy stepping into the role of coach, giving them ownership, voice, and a meaningful opportunity to lead their classmates. Because the routine is brief and energetic, it blends naturally into activity rather than interrupting it.

✓ **Literacy:** Huddle Hype Calls transform communication into authentic literacy practice. Students learn to choose words intentionally, speak with purpose, persuade an audience, listen actively, and reflect on what makes language impactful. Optional literacy enhancements allow teachers to naturally incorporate writing, vocabulary development, rhetorical techniques, and language analysis while preserving the movement-centered nature of physical education.

✓ **PE-Friendly:** No extra equipment or significant downtime is required. Teachers can integrate Hype Calls into virtually any drill or activity, while literacy enhancements fit easily into a few minutes at the beginning of the week or during natural transition times.

✓ **Culture Builder:** Encouragement becomes everyone's responsibility. Every student—not just the most outspoken leaders—has opportunities to motivate teammates, contribute positively to the learning environment, and help establish a classroom culture built around support, leadership, and student voice.

Teacher Tip

Start simple.

Introduce Huddle Hype Calls by focusing only on student confidence and participation. As the routine becomes part of your classroom culture, gradually introduce one literacy enhancement strategy at a time. This keeps the activity approachable while allowing students to continuously deepen their communication skills throughout the unit.