

# Avoiding Student Coaching

## Updated 8/28/15

**The Rule:** *Section 3.1 Adult-Initiated Test Improperities* of the Test Administration Manual states that it is an impropriety to “coach or provide any other type of assistance to students that may affect their responses. This includes verbal cues (e.g., interpreting, explaining, or paraphrasing the test items or prompts) and nonverbal cues (e.g., voice inflection, pointing, or nodding head) to the correct answer.”

**Examples:** (additional specific examples of coaching and how to avoid it are included in the [Testing Improperities and Appropriate Practices](#) document)

- Leading students through instructional strategies such as Think Aloud
- Asking students to point to the correct answer or otherwise identify the source of their answer
- Requiring or rewarding students for showing their work
- Requiring students to raise their hands and receive permission before moving on to the next item
- Providing the read-aloud designated support or accommodation in a manner that is inconsistent with the Oregon Accessibility Manual

**Promising Practices:** Avoiding student coaching, whether intentional or inadvertent, verbal, or nonverbal, is essential to ensuring the validity of the assessment and assessment results. The following methods can be used to help prevent coaching:

- TAs review positive test taking habits, allowable resources, and accessibility supports with students *before* bringing students into the test environment and refrain from providing additional reminders once testing begins.
- TAs limit interactions with students during testing to reading the verbatim student directions and providing appropriately identified accessibility supports.
- Prior to providing a read-aloud for a student, TAs review the [Oregon Accessibility Manual](#) and confirm that the read-aloud is an available designated support or accommodation for the particular assessment.
- TAs avoid requiring students to show their work or otherwise providing students with feedback during testing.