The Minute Paper

Give students 1 minute to reflect on a particular question. The teacher can use the 1-minute paper for various purposes at the beginning or end of class, as well as at any time during the class. The following are examples of ways in which you can use the 1-minute paper.

The main point
Students informally write for a minute or two on the main point of a reading or mini-lecture. This will help teachers start a discussion or get a sense of whether the students understood the central issues in the lecture.

The most important thing learned during class
Assigned at the end of class, this short assignment will remind students of at least one useful thing they can take from class and give teachers a sense of what lecture/discussion points were most clear and meaningful for students.

Questions remained unanswered or concepts still unclear
A short activity that can be done during or at the end of class. If done during class time, make sure you are ready to answer student questions on the spot. If you choose to do it at the end of class, make sure to bring the answers next class time.

One word/sentence from readings
A great conversation starter. Ask each student to write down one word that stood out in their readings or find one sentence that they want to explore as a class. Ask them to also jot down the page number where they encountered the word/sentence. This is a great opportunity for them to be specific in their inquiries. Follow-up: after the class discussion, ask them to make a flash card and write the sentence/word on one side and the explanation on the other, and keep it for future assignments and exams.