

Collaborative/Cooperative Learning

Lesson

Set-Up

- Academic task
- Social focus with discussion (e.g. How are you going to make decisions fairly, disagree in a respectful way, share responsibility, share materials?)

Group Work

- How are the groups functioning academically? Socially?

Lesson Wrap-Up/Reflection/Processing

- Academic learning
- Social learning

Organization/Structure

- Is the task appropriate for cooperative learning or collaborative work (positive interdependence, open-ended)?
- Is formal or informal cooperative learning more appropriate?
- Is there individual and group accountability?
- What is the appropriate size? (considerations: academic challenge, complexity of task, familiarity with cooperative structures, social skills needed)

Cooperative Structures

Swap Meet

Students individually generate ideas. At a signal, students find a partner and pairs swap one new idea and add to their notes. Once a pair has swapped ideas, each finds another partner and repeats the process.

Turn to Your Partner

The students turn to a partner sitting next to them to discuss an issue or question. The teacher then decides if a few pairs should share and discuss their thinking with the class.

Think, Pair, Share

The students think individually about a question or issue and then discuss their thoughts with a partner. Pairs report their thinking to another pair or to the class. This strategy is especially appropriate when the students are asked to respond to complex questions.

Think, Pair, Write

As in “Think, Pair, Share” the students think individually before discuss their thoughts with a partner. Students then write what they are thinking. They might share their writing with another pair or with the class.

Think, Ink, Pair, Share

The students think about a question or topic for 1-2 minutes. They individually write down their thoughts. Students share with one or two partners about the topic for a given amount of time (be strict on the time so each one gets an equal amount of sharing time) One student shares the small-group comments with the entire group.

Heads Together

Groups of four students discuss a question or issue among themselves. The teacher then decides if a few groups should share their thinking with the class.

Group Brainstorming

Groups of four list as many ideas as they can about a question or topic as a group member records.

Tea Party

Pairs circulate around a classroom. On a given signal, they turn to the nearest pair and discuss a question or a suggested topic. This is repeated for several pairings.

