

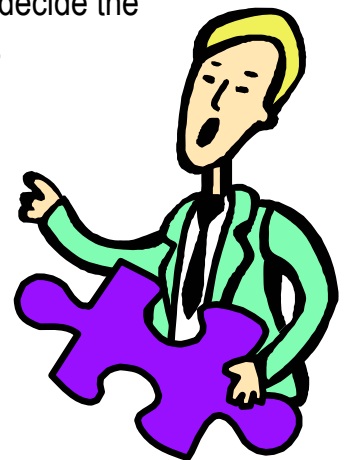
Jigsaw

General Description:

Jigsaw is a cooperative learning structure for introducing new content. Students are divided into home teams, small groups of 3-4 students. Students within a home team share in the responsibility of learning content information. The teacher divides the information into smaller parts. Each home team member becomes an expert who teaches the content of the individual part to the whole group.

Directions:

1. Each student in a home team assumes responsibility for a portion of the materials to be learned. The teacher may assign specific parts or group members in the home teams may decide how parts will be distributed.
2. Students gather in expert groups to study their part. Expert groups are made up of the representatives from each home group assigned to a particular part. Often expert groups begin by working independently to read or investigate the topic. Then they work together to identify the most important information and decide the most effective way to share the important points with their home teams.
3. Experts return to the home teams to teach their information to the other home team members.
4. After learning the information from the experts in their home teams, each student completes an individual response which is used as an assessment to determine individual grades.



Extensions:

- Use structures like VIP or Write Something to foster richer discussions of the information.
- As students listen to expert reports in their home teams, have them take notes in their Interactive Student Notebooks. Provide advance questions or category headings to further structure their note taking and keep them focused on the most important ideas.

Read More:

- Aronson, E., N. Blaney, C. Stephin, J. Sikes & M. Snapp. *The Jigsaw Classroom*. (1978). Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publishing Company.
- Bennett B., Rolheiser, C., Stevahn, L. (1991) *Cooperative Learning: Where Heart Meets Mind*, Educational Connections, Ontario.
- Websites
 - <http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/archive/cl1/CL/doingcl/jigsaw.htm>
 - <http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/DE/PD/instr/strats/jigsaw/>
 - <http://www.utexas.edu/academic/diia/research/projects/hewlett/cooperative.php>