

English Language Learners Cooperative Learning Strategies

Tea Party

Multiple discussions going on simultaneously with each student speaking to different students every few minutes to understand a different viewpoint.

How to Use

1. Line students up in two lines facing each other.
2. Give the class a question.
3. Have students facing each other in the lines discuss the question for a minute or two.
4. Then give another question.
5. New partners are given by having one line move to the right.

When to Use

- To open communication with students and hear different viewpoints.
- Use at the beginning of the school year to get to know each other.
- When doing a science project hearing different hypotheses.
- Use in Spelling to test each other's skills for spelling words of the week.
- Math for drills in addition, subtraction or multiplication.

Variations

- This activity can also be done in circles, one circle moves to the right when it is time to get new partners.
- Instead of questions do a spelling or vocabulary bee.
- Use math flash cards instead of questions.

Write Around

Teacher starts a sentence and each student takes turns writing a sentence. They pass their paper to the right, read the one they received, and add a sentence to that one. After a few rounds, stories or summaries begin. Give students time to add a conclusion and/or edit their favorite one to share with the class.

How to Use

1. Students are placed in groups with 3 – 4 students and the teacher give each group a topic or idea.
2. Students then take turns writing their response to the question or idea on a piece of paper.
3. After time is up (given by the teacher) the teachers have students pass the paper to the next group.
4. Then this group reads over what the other group wrote and add to it or explain more.

5. The process repeats.

When to Use

- Allows all students to demonstrate their contribution and knowledge regarding the topic.
- Use during ELAR or writing journals.
- When teaching students about writing a short story and how to be creative.
- Students can use this when learning to review and edit rough drafts for their peers.
- Creative writing or summarization

Variations

- Another way to do this is put students' different groups and have them create multiple stories using the same first sentence given by the teacher.
 - For younger grade levels K-2 you can start a drawing and have each student add a drawing.
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Jigsaw

Students are split and put into groups depending on language levels. Different group members will meet separately with other groups. At the end students end with their original group to collaborate their findings into one answer.

How to Use

1. Split your ELL students into groups, with each group containing members of various levels and abilities.
2. Have members of each group who are of the same level meet separately to work on part of the group's task.
3. When they are finished working separately, team members go back to their groups and work together to gather all their knowledge together into one cohesive group answer.

When to Use

- Use to assess their knowledge before they start a new chapter.
- This could be used as preparing for a book report after reading a book.
- Use during social studies when putting a map together.
- Introduce new vocabulary before a unit to test their knowledge.
- Write test questions that will be on the next unit test.

Variations

- Have the students focus on vocabulary and reviewing vocab understanding in detail.