B. GROUP PUZZLE / JIGSAW METHOD


The Jigsaw is a two-step collaborative method in which students work together to refine their understanding of basic concepts and principles and then to apply those principles to more complex programs.

Part 1: Expert Groups

Students work in groups to develop basic understanding of a content area, such as a text, philosophy, concept or set of principles. The goal of these groups is for each member to develop reasonable expertise in a given area. Each group works on a different content area, making the members of each group experts in their respective fields of action.

Part 2: Application Groups

Application Groups are made up of one expert from each of the content areas. Group work begins by each member describing briefly his/her area of expertise. The primary work of these groups is to answer questions, solve problems, do analyses or make arguments that require everyone’s expertise.

Advantage of the Jigsaw Groups

- Students will work more on the text by themselves, without your simply presenting it to them
- Students will feel more independent of you
- Discussing in a small group will make students feel less inhibited
- Because every single student will have to report about his/her questions to a group that doesn’t know anything about it, each student will have to take responsibility for his/her part—and absolutely everybody will be involved in the action.

Example:

Part 1: Expert Groups (Theory Groups, Discourse Groups)

Group “Hearts”: Become expert in hearts
Group “Diamonds”: Become expert in diamonds
Group “Spades”: Become expert in spades
Group “Clubs”: Become expert in clubs

Part 2: Application Groups (Consulting Firms, Problem-Solving Teams, Analysis Teams)

Team “Aces”: Each Ace reports on his/her content area. Teams then attempt to complete Task II, which requires expertise of each member.
Team “Kings”: Each King reports on his/her content area. Teams then attempt to complete Task II, which requires expertise of each member.

Team “Queens”: Each Queen reports on his/her content area. Teams then attempt to complete Task II, which requires expertise of each member.

Team “Jacks”: Each Jack reports on his/her content area. Teams then attempt to complete Task II, which requires expertise of each member.

Application:

Teaching Science -- Teaching the Sections of a Research Article

**Expert Groups master the purpose, structure and conventions of each section**

Introduction Methods Results Conclusion

**Application Groups read and critique research articles**

Teaching Social Science -- Organizational Theory

**Expert Groups master approaches (frames) to organizational theory**

Political Frame HR Frame Symbolic Frame Structural Frame

**Application Groups read and analyze case studies of organizations**

Teaching Literature – The Gothic Novel

**Expert Groups master approaches (discourses) to literature**

Aesthetics Philosophy Sexuality Recent Interpretation

**Application Groups read and analyze novels**