

Title of Session: Group Learning Methods

Moderator: Fred Steinbroner

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Room: After School Online Room

BJ: While we wait for Fred, let's do some housekeeping

BJ: To make your chat window larger, click on the actions drop down menu in the upper right of the chat window

BJ: then scroll down to DETACH

BJ: we usually start all the discussions in Tapped In with introductions

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

KristyH: I am a preservice teacher from Gainesville, Georgia in a 1st Grade.

ConnieV: I am a postbac teacher from Houston, Texas

KristyH: I am a postbac too.

JenW: I am TechCoord in SoCalifornia (k-8 students)

DarleneS: I work for the Navy in San Diego, CA in the area of Knowledge Mgt. Also pursuing Master in EdTech

BJ: great group

ShannonF: I am a special ed (MI) teacher , 6th, 7th, & 8th, in Jasper, GA

ShannonF: I'm a postbac too.

JenW: ??? what is a preservice teacher???

FredS joined the room.

KristyH: I am working on finishing my teacher certification now as a student teacher.

JenW: ahhh -- thank you

BJ: Hi, Fred. Welcome

FredS: Hi BJ!

BJ: nice group you have here, Fred...

FredS: Great!

RuthVe joined the room.

BJ: from first grade teacher to adult continuing ed

FredS: I've been improving the www.GroupLearning.org Website

BJ: Welcome, Ruth.

RuthVe: hi

BJ: Fred, why don't you introduce yourself to the group and then we can start

FredS: Hi Everyone

BJ: . o O (Ruth, can you please introduce yourself?)

RuthVe: yes

RuthVe: i am a senior at the University of Houston

RuthVe: I am currently in the education program

FredS: I'm Fred Steinbroner and I teach computers for Boise State University and also run a number of Educational Websites including www.GroupLearning.org and www.JigsawHelper.org and www.NetHelp.org

FredS: Everyone please Click on www.GroupLearning.org

KristyH: I'm back.

FredS: Does anyone have any questions?

KristyH: What's jigsaw?

FredS: Jigsaw is a Group Learning Method developed by Elliot Aronson in 1971 to help combat desegregation violence in the Austin Texas School System at that time

DarleneS: It's interesting - the stats on coop learning - in many work settings, coop work is discouraged - seen as chit-chat

KristyH: Is that where everyone in the group has a certain role?

FredS: A Summary of the Jigsaw Grouping Method is linked from JigsawHelper.net at <http://www.jigsawhelper.net/jigsawgrouping.htm>

KristyH: Now I remember hearing about it. I've never used it.

FredS: Jigsaw Grouping is not tied to computers but can be implemented in any classroom group

BJ: click on the blue hyperlink to open a new window

FredS: The process is - Home Groups - Expert Groups - Home Groups

FredS: Some teachers like to use a class presentation by each Expert Group, instead of having the Expert Groups just present/teach their Home Groups

RuthVe: I think the jigsaw group learning method can be very effective in the classroom

KristyH: Do you think it can work with first graders?

ShannonF: What about special ed?

FredS: A more detailed list of the steps in the Jigsaw Grouping Method are linked from JigsawHelper.net at <http://www.jigsawhelper.net/jigsawgroupinghelper/> which includes Video Helpers and other step by step information

FredS: Jigsaw Grouping can work with any class of students that can read the information to be learned

RuthVe: I would like to know how this method can be used with children with learning disabilities

KristyH: That can be a problem with first grade although I have found some software that reads the info aloud to students on the computer.

FredS: With younger students I like to use the alternate method of having the Experts present to the whole class so I can help them do the presentation when necessary

KristyH: Makes sense.

FredS: Special Ed Classes can use Jigsaw but again I recommend the alternate method so the teacher can fill any gaps that might occur

KristyH: So do young kids meet in a group to become experts on a topic then present to the class?

ShannonF: I agree, because there are such varying degrees of performance levels within a special ed classroom.

ShannonF: Socially, I believe it would be very beneficial!

FredS: Yes Kristi - Exactly - I use a Smart Board type Projector so Presenting to the whole class by the Expert Groups becomes easier - especially since I put all the material to be studied/learned on the computer/Web

RuthVe: I also agree that they would benefit greatly

DarleneS: Any thoughts on adult learners - regular process? or altered in some way?

FredS: Adults can usually easily handle either approach

FredS: The Social Skill learning part of the Jigsaw Grouping Method is extremely beneficial even if Jigsaw is only used occasionally in the classroom

KristyH: Do you try to use mixed ability groups or not?

FredS: I usually let the students pick their own Home Groups - Then when they form Expert Groups by deciding what Expert Topic they want to study they automatically form Expert Groups that are grouped randomly

KristyH: Interesting.

FredS: They make decisions by Consensus - Which by my definition is that everyone theoretically agrees but in reality no one actually objects or cries

RuthVe: is it possible to use this method in all content areas?

FredS: Some teachers like to pre-select groups

KristyH: That can be a good idea sometimes with first graders. You can group readers with non-readers.

CypertGst2: how do you make sure everyone participates equally?

FredS: Good question Ruth - Most topics can handle Jigsaw Grouping - However the Topics to be covered must be able to be equally divided into 4 or 5 or ? parts - In other words, the sub-topics must be able to stand on their own and not build on each other like sometimes occurs in Math, etc.

FredS: Sub-Topics meaning the Expert Group Topics

RuthVe: ok

FredS: Sometimes if a Topic is too linear like Math - I'll introduce the Topic enough to get to a point where Jigsaw can be used with its Stand-alone Sub-topic Expert Group Topics

RuthVe: the class that I have now likes to talk loudly. Will this method work with them without making the class too disruptive?

FredS: When the class gets too loud or disruptive I tend to move to the alternative approach with each Expert Group in turn, with my help, Presenting to the Whole Class

FredS: Rather than just presenting back to their original Home Groups

ConnieV: Can the Grouplearning and Nethelp sites add to the content of the jigsaw method?

FredS: You could use the www.GroupLearning.org Website to run a Jigsaw Activity on Learning about Group Learning

FredS: and www.NetHelp.org could be used in a Jigsaw Grouping Activity to learn about the Internet

KristyH: What other group learning methods other than jigsaw can you recommend, especially for young students?

FredS: You'd have to tell the Expert Groups which part of the Website you wanted them to Study and Teach to the Group

ConnieV: Is Jigsaw free to educators?

ShannonF: I am also curious about other strategies that you might recommend.

FredS: Jigsaw is my favorite and the most powerful, but there are a number of other Group Learning Methods starting with the most basic of Pairs

RuthVe: How can I make sure the students do not get off task while they are in their groups?

FredS: Yes - Jigsaw is a free method that can be used by anyone

FredS: I go around the classroom from group to group and give each group pointers appropriate to each Expert Topic and encourage them to remain on task

KristyH: Do you ever give them rubrics?

FredS: Yes - Rubrics and other materials can be included in Jigsaw Grouping

RuthVe: each group would have a different rubric right?

FredS: I'm into computers, but traditionally Jigsaw was done with paper handouts, rubrics, etc., but I tend to put all the materials on the computer now.

FredS: Any more questions?

KristyH: So do groups fill in a template?

BJ: A reminder that Fred meets here on the third Tuesday of every month

FredS: They can fill in templates, etc., or they can just study and teach Expert Topic Material

FredS: Any final questions before we end?

BJ: Thanks, Fred. This was a good discussion tonight!

BJ . o O (lots of good questions)

KristyH: Thank you.

FredS: Thanks BJ for all your help

ShannonF: Thank you!

CypertGst2: Thanks

RuthVe: thank you

FredS: Goodnight everyone - Talk to you next month

ConnieV: Thank you for your time, I was quiet, but only because I was really looking over your sites.