

**Title of Session:** Group Learning Methods

**Moderator:** Fred Steinbroner

**Title of File:** 20040217glm

**Date:** February 17, 2004

Room: After School Online

**BJ:** We usually start the discussions with introductions

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

**MatthewBo:** I'm a graduate student at HGSE - former second grade teacher in PA and NJ.

**VickieJP:** I'm a Tech coordinator in Louisiana

**BJ:** Fred is our discussion leader. Group Learning Methods is his baby

**FredS:** I teach Computers and Web Page Making Classes for Boise State University and also run a number of educational Websites including [www. GroupLearning .org](http://www.GroupLearning.org)

**BJ:** [www.GroupLearning.org](http://www.GroupLearning.org)

**FredS:** Thanks BJ

**FredS:** First, let check out [www.GroupLearning.org](http://www.GroupLearning.org) and then come back here to discuss it in a few minutes...

**SusanR** joined the room.

**BJ:** hi, Sue. We're looking at [www.GroupLearning.org](http://www.GroupLearning.org)

**FredS:** Hi Susan - We're checking out [www.GroupLearning.org](http://www.GroupLearning.org)

**SusanR:** Thanks, Fred.

**SusanR** . o O ( new URL )

**FredS:** We'll come back here in a few minutes to discuss it...

**FredS:** Any Questions about [www.GroupLearning.org](http://www.GroupLearning.org) or other Group Learning topic?

**JenniferD1** joined the room.

**JenniferD1:** Good evening!

**MariaAl:** does jigsaw grouping method refer to cooperative learning?

**BJ:** Hi, Jennifer. Fred is discussing his Group Learning Methods webpage at

[www.GroupLearning.org](http://www.GroupLearning.org)

**JenniferD1:** OK! If it is Ok with everyone, I may just listen for a while.

**FredS:** Yes Maria - The Jigsaw Grouping Method is one specific type of Cooperative Learning.

**VickieJP:** Am I right in thinking that it is called jigsaw because everyone is dependent on everyone else in the group to complete a task?

**VickieJP:** They have to "stick together"

**FredS:** Yes Vickie - The interdependence is important, and also the way that the Home Groups reform into the Expert Groups makes the classroom into a sort of Jigsaw Puzzle type of procedure...

**VickieJP:** How are less capable students helped by this method?

**FredS:** Jigsaw Grouping was invented and named by Elliot Aronson in 1971 to help solve some of the problems relating to desegregation in Texas Schools.

**FredS:** Less capable students have the support of their peers. The Jigsaw Method is especially valuable in helping students develop social skills, while also teaching a specific learning objective.

**JenniferD1:** Was this method helpful in helping the students adjust to the desegregation of the schools?

**VickieJP:** Would you say that this method is first for social growth and second the academic goal?

**FredS:** Jigsaw Grouping is very useful in helping learning from different backgrounds (racial and gender) get along with each other.

**FredS:** Yes Jennifer - Jigsaw Grouping was very successful in reducing racial violence.

**JenniferD1:** First I have heard of this method. Very interesting.

**MariaAI:** Do you have any suggestions on what should I do to a couple of my students who doesn't like to work with a partner or a group, even if I tried to explain to him the benefits?

**FredS:** Unfortunately, Group Learning is out of favor in education at the moment with the current focus on individual testing, however it is ironic that the business world is going more and more toward work teams and other forms of groups that work together.

**VickieJP:** Is this method also effective with adults?

**FredS:** Jigsaw basically forces students to work together, because of the interdependence built into the method.

**VickieJP:** We use Group Learning often at our school. But not exactly as stated here

**FredS:** Jigsaw is effective with learners of any age, providing they can read the material to be learned.

**FredS:** There are many forms and variations of Jigsaw Grouping.

**VickieJP:** How is the evaluation handled in Jigsaw grouping?

**FredS:** For younger students, I often use a Jigsaw variation where the Expert Groups present to the whole class (with my help as the teacher), rather than just present back to their Home Groups.

**FredS:** Good questions Vickie - The short answer is that Jigsaw Grouping is not by itself a lesson plan, but is just a learning activity. Jigsaw can be combined with other methods like WebQuests that include an evaluation section...

**FredS:** An example of a WebQuest that includes Jigsaw Grouping in it can be viewed at [www.VikingQuest.net](http://www.VikingQuest.net)

**FredS:** I find Jigsaw Grouping especially valuable in introducing a new topic.

**MatthewBo:** Fred, my interest with Group Learning lies in the use of collaborative technology tools to facilitate group interaction... I see you have WebQuests there, which I've used... any others that come to mind?

**FredS:** Other WebQuests that use Jigsaw Grouping that I've helped develop are listed on [www.JigsawHelper.net](http://www.JigsawHelper.net) like [www.MythologyQuest.net](http://www.MythologyQuest.net) and BJ's [www.ConsumerArt.net](http://www.ConsumerArt.net)

**SusanR** left the room.

**SusanR** joined the room.

**FredS:** I'm always looking for teachers interested in emailing me ideas and content for other JigsawQuests

**FredS:** Any other questions on Jigsaw or Group Learning?

**MariaAI:** What are the other types of cooperative learning other than Jigsaw grouping method?

**FredS:** Feel free to email your questions or ideas to me anytime at [FSteinb@BoiseState.edu](mailto:FSteinb@BoiseState.edu)

**VickieJP:** Sorry, I have to leave early. Thanks for the information. Very good ideas

**FredS:** Goodnight Vickie!

**FredS:** Any more questions or comments before we go?

**MariaAl:** okay. thanks for all the info. i need to go.

**MatthewBo:** Thanks for the links, Fred.

**BJ:** Thanks, Fred

**FredS:** Have a Good Evening Everyone!

**MariaAl:** the links are of great help.

**SusanR:** Thanks Fred! ALWAYS INSIGHTFUL. I must update some of those links.

**SusanR:** ..on the Vikingquest

**FredS:** Goodnight Sue!

**FredS:** Thanks for your help BJ - Goodnight!