

**Title of Session:** Group Learning Methods

**Moderator:** Fred Steinbroner

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Room: After School Online Room

**BJ:** how about if we start with introductions while we wait for Fred to catch his breath

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

**SusanR:** K to 8 Occasional Teacher from Ottawa, Ontario

**PariieM:** My name is Pariie. I'm a graduate student at Johns Hopkins U.

**JamesDF:** I'm a H.S. computer teacher in Texas

**FredS:** I teach Computers and Web Page Making Classes for Boise State University, and also run a number of educational Websites including NetHelp.org and

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

**FredS:** Any Questions before we start?

**PariieM:** nope

**FredS:** First check out [www.GroupLearning.org](http://www.GroupLearning.org) for a few minutes and then come back here and we will discuss it...

**BJ:** Fred, can you give us a couple examples of different kinds of group learning?

**BJ:** o O ( or we can read the webpage )

**FredS:** The Jigsaw Grouping Method is my favorite, but there are many other group learning activities and even whole lesson plans built on group learning like Bernie Dodge's WebQuests (on the complex side) down to simple group learning in pairs...

**FredS:** Any Questions?

**BJ:** grade levels, Fred?

**PariieM:** Sometimes, working in group may affect some student's abilities. Such as one student in group is not good in criticize, one may not be good in speaking. How can teacher help for this matter?

**FredS:** Group Learning can be done at any grade level - Jigsaw requires that students be able to read the material to be learned

**JamesDF:** Is the jigsaw method where students are teaching other students? How does this effect learning? Does that work?

**PariieM:** I like Jigsaw's idea. I feel it looks like "tutoring" by friends.

**FredS:** When students are limited in their ability, I like to do a modified form of jigsaw where the Experts present to the whole class with the help of the teacher, rather than just present back to their Home Groups

**FredS:** Much research has shown group learning to work well in the classroom

**PariieM:** Can this method of learning suitable to use with special ed. students also?

**JamesDF:** By that, you mean that they mastered the material, right--as well learning to work with others in a group

**FredS:** Elliot Aronson, who invented Jigsaw in 1971, has done much research that shows that even occasional Jigsaw Grouping can make very significant improvements in both academic and social skills

**FredS:** Yes, Jigsaw can be used in Special Ed, but the modified version may work out better

**FredS:** Let's check out an example of what I call a JigsawQuest, which is really a WebQuest that uses Jigsaw Grouping in it -- [www.VikingQuest.net](http://www.VikingQuest.net)

**PariieM:** I want to know ore about how to modify the learning methods for students with disabilities. If one classroom has various students with disabilities types, if teachers use Jigsaw method rather than tradition ways, do you think it will help and improve student's learning better or worse?

**FredS:** I think that jigsaw grouping is especially valuable for learning social skills (for any type of student and probably especially for special students), while also helping students learn the content as well

**FredS:** Part of the power of jigsaw grouping is that even very occasional use can have major success in helping students to get along especially with others unlike them (example - different gender, race, abilities, etc.)

**JamesDF:** Something that strikes me is that if the jigsaw method uses experts working together before meeting with their home group, then I presume this enables more complete and comprehensive learning since you will get the knowledge of four or five really instead of one.

**FredS:** Exactly James!

**FredS:** The Expert Groups are to help the Experts prepare for teaching their Home Groups (or the whole class) their part of the topic

**PariieM:** My personal idea is I believe that jigsaw will help students to learn as a group and really works for general students. I just feel that for special students , they have some limited abilities. If jigsaw can help them learn more effectively, it'll be great.

**FredS:** Much research has shown that teaching is one of the very best ways to learn - teacher learns the most - Jigsaw Grouping turns learners into teachers

**JamesDF:** Hey that's a good point, I know that from personal experience

**PariieM:** So, can general ed. teacher provide jigsaw for their students? or only by Expert group?

**FredS:** Try my modified (simpler) form of Jigsaw where the Expert Groups present their part of the topic to the whole class using a smart board with the help of the teacher

**FredS:** That way even if some students have problems and are limited in their ability, the teacher can help cover for them so the rest of the class still gets a full explanation of all parts of the topic

**FredS:** I realize that the current trend is the drill and test approach to education, but my goal is help teachers realize that they are often leaving out the teaching of any social skills in trying to not leave any students left behind academically, and a little group learning can help a lot and still not sacrifice any academic learning

**FredS:** Any Questions?

**JamesDF:** drill and test is not the best way to learn anyway, you need something to keep them interested

**FredS:** Good Point Again James!

**PariieM:** may be drill and reward..For stimulus their attention.

**JamesDF:** Not a bad plan Pariie, rewards work wonders

**BJ:** Thanks, Fred. Pariie and James were great participants in the discussion!

**FredS:** Any Questions?

**BJ:** Thanks for joining the discussion, Pariie and James

**JamesDF:** You bet, take care

**PariieM:** I like jigsaw group learning as well as on-line discussion. Thank you Fred, James and BJ.

**BJ:** I think we're about done, unless anyone has questions, Fred. This was a nice discussion.

**SusanR:** Thanks Fred. I keep learning something new about the jigsaw method.

**FredS:** If you have any questions, feel free to email me anytime at [Fred@Steinbroner.com](mailto:Fred@Steinbroner.com)

**BJ:** see you next month, Fred?

**JamesDF:** Bye everyone

**FredS:** Talk to you next month on the 3rd Tuesday at 5 PM PT

**SusanR:** Goodnight

**FredS:** Goodnight Everyone!

**SusanR** left the room.

**BJ** . o O ( third Tuesday: April 20 )

**PariieM:** Okie, Thank you very much. Bye bye everyone.

**BJ** waves goodnight