

**Title of Session:** Group Learning Methods

**Moderator:** Fred Steinbroner

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Room: After School Online

**BJ:** Welcome to Group Learning Methods

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

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

**CherylDW:** I am a Speech-Language Pathologist working in an elementary school.

**CourtneyBu:** I am a 6th grade multiple subject teacher in California

**CarlaJ:** I'm a special education teacher in San Diego

**RebeccaSL:** I am a education student in Tyler Texas

**FredS:** I'm Fred Steinbroner and I teach computers and Internet classes for Boise State University and run a number of educational Websites including [www.NetHelp.org](http://www.NetHelp.org) and [www.GroupLearning.org](http://www.GroupLearning.org)

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

**EileenWi** joined the room.

**FredS:** Let's start by checking out [www.GroupLearning.org](http://www.GroupLearning.org) and then coming back here to discuss it...

**BJ** checks to make sure everyone got the link

**BJ:** If you have trouble opening the link, try ctrl as you click on the link

**BJ** . o O ( overrides most popup blockers )

**RebeccaSL:** I'm still having trouble opening the link

**BJ:** Rebecca, try opening a new browser window and typing the link in

**BJ** . o O ( or copy the url from the pasteboard )

**FredS:** If you're having problems with [www.GroupLearning.org](http://www.GroupLearning.org) then try <http://www.nethelp.org/grouphelp/>

**FredS:** Any Questions?

**CarlaJ:** can you explain the jigsaw grouping?

**CourtneyBu:** How often should you use this sort of grouping?

**FredS:** For a Summary of the Jigsaw Grouping Method check out <http://www.jigsawhelper.net/jigsawgrouping.htm>

**CherylDW:** It is interesting that the Jigsaw Grouping Method started as an effort to diffuse conflict.

**EileenWi:** what are the typical challenges with cooperative learning.

**FredS:** For more detailed step by step instructions for using Jigsaw Grouping check out <http://www.jigsawhelper.net/jigsawgroupinghelper/>

**CherylDW:** Is it more appropriate for some age groups than others?

**FredS:** Jigsaw Grouping is effective for all age groups however the students must be able to read the material presented in the Jigsaw Grouping Activity

**CourtneyBu:** What do you do when space is a problem, having computer right next to one another causes a crowded space?

**EileenWi:** is there a way to test individual knowledge of a subject, while using cooperative learning?

**FredS:** Jigsaw Grouping is effective for learning social skills (as well as academic skills) specifically because it was designed to do so in order to reduce racial conflict during school integration in the 1960's

**CherylDW:** Can this method be used in a classroom where educators work collaboratively?

**FredS:** All good questions!!

**RebeccaSL:** what is the best way to group students? socially, academically, etc?

**FredS:** Jigsaw Grouping itself does not usually include evaluation, as Jigsaw Grouping is just a Learning Activity, and just part of a Lesson Plan

**FredS:** I like to allow the students to initially group themselves into Home Groups, and then when the students go to their Expert Groups they randomize based on their interest in the Expert Area

**CourtneyBu:** what if work does not happen when they have the opportunity to choose who they work with?

**FredS:** Other teacher prefer to use a random type of grouping right from the beginning

**FredS:** Then the teacher usually set all the groups

**RebeccaSL:** Are the Home Groups the same group of students all year long or do they change throughout the year?

**FredS:** I change them (or allow them to change them) everytime

**CherylDW:** Can this method be used for all content areas?

**CourtneyBu:** so you get to change your home group and the expert groups change also everytime?

**FredS:** However, sometime I do what I call double or triple Jigsaw, where a number of Jigsaw Grouping Activities are done back to back to back...

**CarlaJ:** Is there something that is created in the home group in the end, in terms of some project or other output item to show comprehension of all expert pieces?

**FredS:** Most content areas can be covered with Jigsaw Grouping, but there are problems with topics that build on each other like some math problems

**EileenWi:** are there any issues conducting group activities over a 2-3 day stretch

**JeffC:** One thing I used to do was create moveable groups... I used a bridge tournament movement, where members would move from table (of four) to table, you can also have different tasks.

**FredS:** Jigsaw requires that the main topic can be broken down into 4 or 5 equal parts (Expert Areas) that can stand alone

**CourtneyBu:** I feel a little unsure about how this all takes place. I read it and watched videos and am still kind of foggy.

**CherylDW:** It seems that the teacher would have to experiment to become comfortable.

**EileenWi:** also, how can you ensure there is equal involvement by all group members?

**RebeccaSL:** Are students graded as a whole or individually in Jigsaw activities?

**FredS:** Jigsaw is often used as part of a larger or longer Lesson Plan. One possibility is to use Jigsaw Grouping as part of a WebQuest like in <http://www.VikingQuest.net>

**FredS:** Students can be graded as both individuals and as part of a group

**CherylDW:** So rubrics can be used for assessment.

**FredS:** Exactly Cheryl!

**FredS:** That's why I like the WebQuest approach to using Jigsaw because WebQuests include an evaluation rubric

**CourtneyBu:** A social studies, science, or lang arts lesson would be perfect for this jigsaw method.

**CherylDW:** I like that also.

**FredS:** I agree Courtney!

**EileenWi:** I am looking at a webquest activity right now - very impressive. how much time is allowed for these activities?

**FredS:** Check out some of the WebQuests that include Jigsaw Grouping in them like [www.VikingQuest.net](http://www.VikingQuest.net) or [www.PoetryQuest.net](http://www.PoetryQuest.net) or BJ's [www.ConsumerArt.net](http://www.ConsumerArt.net)

**CourtneyBu:** I was thinking the same, my kids could work on some projects forever and when they are engaged I hate to make them stop

**CherylDW:** PoetryQuest looks great.

**CourtneyBu:** I just printed the art one

**FredS:** Feel free to use any of them, and if you have additional ideas email me and I can make additions or changes - [FSteinb@BoiseState.edu](mailto:FSteinb@BoiseState.edu)

**FredS:** Any Questions?

**EileenWi:** what percent of classroom time do you recommend to utilize cooperative learning

**SusanR** joined the room.

**SusanR** pops in quietly and listens

**CindyL** joined the room.

**FredS:** According to extensive research done by Elliot Aronson who invented Jigsaw Grouping, Even Occasional Use of Jigsaw Grouping can Result in Very Significant improvement in Social Skills and Reduction in School Conflict

**CherylDW:** I like that more responsibility is placed on the students for their learning.

**FredS:** Yes Cheryl, the power of Jigsaw Grouping lies in making every student a teacher, and the best way to learn something is to teach it

**CourtneyBu:** they say you remember 90% of what you teach and only 10% of what you hear

**FredS:** or as I like to say - The Teacher Learns The Most!

**FredS:** Exactly Courtney!

**CherylDW:** Courtney, that sounds good.

**RebeccaSL:** The hands-on discovery and learning seems to be fun and exciting for the kids, too.

**EileenWi:** I am so glad that I joined this discussion - you've provided some great resources that I am sure to use - thanks!

**FredS:** Most Kids Love Jigsaw Grouping

**CherylDW:** They usually like more hands-on activities.

**FredS:** Remember, you don't have to change your classroom into all Jigsaw Grouping - You just have to do an Activity that includes Jigsaw Grouping once in a while to gain much of the Social Skills Benefit of Cooperative Learning!

**CarlaJ:** Thanks for the links

**FredS:** Any Questions before We Finish?

**RebeccaSL:** Thanks for the great info and suggestions!

**CherylDW:** Great info, Fred. I'm sure I'll have more questions as I do more research.

**CourtneyBu:** Thank you so much, I got some great stuff

**BJ:** thanks, Fred

**FredS:** Talk to you all next month, and feel free to email me with your questions and ideas - [FSteinb@BoiseState.edu](mailto:FSteinb@BoiseState.edu)