

Collaborative Group Structures

Mingle and Share (whole group)

Purpose: Give students the opportunity to share their idea with as many students in the classroom as possible.

Directions:

- Teacher poses a question. For example: What is your favorite part of the story?
- Students think about their answer.
- Students use sentence stem as such:
 - My favorite part was ____? How about you?
 - I like when ____? What part did you like?

(The main point is to have students say their answer and elicit a response from their peer with the phrase “how about you” or “what part did you like”.)

- Students walk around the room and talk with as many people as they can in the allotted time.

Square and Circle, Ask, and Answer (whole group)

Purpose: Give students the opportunity to ask and answer questions.

- Divide student up into two groups. The square groups are the questioners and the circle groups are the answerers. Teacher will have to cut up squares shapes with a question mark and circle shapes with a period. Each shape is given to a student to help student identify the questioners from the responders. (stick on nametags with a ? or . would work too).
- The square groups are given questions to ask their peers such as:
 - What is your favorite character in the book? Why?
 - What is your favorite part of the book?
 The circle groups are given frames to answer the questions such as:
 - My favorite character is _____ because _____.
 - My favorite part is _____.

- Students walk around asking and answering questions. The squares always ask a question and the circle always answer a question. So, students have to find a peer with the opposite shape.
- Teacher then can switch the squares and circles to give students practice with the opposite skill.

Think-Pair-Square (small group)

Purpose: To give students the opportunity to share their ideas orally and work collaboratively to come up with a common answer

Directions:

- Students are in groups of 4 (tablemates)

- Student think alone about the question. Sample question: Do you think the main character was a good person?
- Form pairs to discuss the question (example frames)
 - Student A:**
 - In my opinion the main character was ____ because ____.
 - Student B:**
 - I agree/disagree with you because ____.
- Students share answer with team of four
- Students work collaboratively to come up with a common understanding. One person in the group shares their answers with the class (written or oral). Possible sentence frames:
 - My team thinks _____.
 - _____ on my team said _____.
 - As a group we _____.
 - We are in agreement with _____.

Paraphrase Passport

- * A student contributes an idea
- * Another student must correctly restate that idea before contributing his/her idea
- * Encourage students are listening to each other

_____ is _____.

I heard _____ say _____. I would like to add that _____.

_____ stated that _____. In addition, _____.

Think-Pair-Write-Square / Think-Pair-Draw-Square

- * Students are in groups of 4
- * Student thinks alone about the question
- * Students write (or draw) their answer on paper
- * Form pairs to discuss their answer
- * Students share answer with team of four
- * Students write the group's answered and share with the class