

Quick Techniques

Think-Pair-Share

The instructor poses a question, preferably one demanding analysis, evaluation, or synthesis, and gives the students about a minute to think through an appropriate response. Students then turn to their partners and share their responses. During the last stage, student responses can be shared with a learning team, with a larger group, or with an entire class during a follow-up discussion. The caliber of discussion is enhanced by this technique, and all students have an opportunity to learn by reflection and by verbalization.

Lyman

Roundtable

Students in a learning team write in turn on a single pad of paper, stating their ideas aloud as they write. As the tablet circulates, more and more information is added until various aspects of a topic are explored. A very effective adaptation is to have learning teams move to the next table and write on the same large piece of paper the previous group wrote on. Good for reviews.

Kagan

Roundrobin

Similar to round table except responses are given orally.

Kagan

Pair of Pairs

Students write out a list of responses to a question or statement such as "What I learned in class today." "Ways to improve our class." "Topics for creative writing." "Questions I'd like answered." This may be done alone or in pairs. If alone students then get together in pairs with one paper and pencil and combine their lists to make one list. Two pairs then get together and make a single combined list. All members of the group are responsible to know what is on the list.