

Quick Techniques²

Write-Pair-Share

In response to a question, students write their best answer, then share their response in pairs. Easily adapted to a lecture-style, professors pause after about 10 minutes and have students in pairs compare their note-taking. Freed

Numbered Heads Together

Members of learning teams, usually composed of four individuals, count off: 1, 2, 3, and 4. The teacher poses a question, usually factual in nature, but requiring some higher order thinking skills. Students discuss the question, making certain that every group member knows the answer. The instructor calls a specific number and the designated team members (1, 2, 3, or 4) respond as group spokespersons. Again, students benefit from the verbalization, and the peer coaching helps both the high and low achievers. Class time is usually better spent because less time is wasted on inappropriate responses and because all students become actively involved with the material. Since no one knows which number the teacher will call, all team members have a vested interest in being able to articulate the appropriate response. Kagan

Folded Line

Have students choose a number from 1 - 10 which best indicates their skill (eg. using databases) or feelings (eg. about math). Have them line up in descending order. Then fold the line so people are in pairs where the most expert will talk with the least expert. Teacher poses questions to help reveal different perspectives. (See next page) Kagan