

Title of Session: Group Learning Methods

Moderator: Fred Steinbroner

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Room: After School Online

BJ: welcome to the Group Learning Methods discussion

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

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

SusanSi: I teach 4th grade math & science in rural NE Texas

UverC: I'm an English teacher in Brazil ... working on a master's thesis on the use of Computer-mediated-communication to enhance foreign language learning

BJ: Dan?

BJ: Fred?

FredS: I teach Internet and Building Webpages Classes for Boise State University and also run a number of educational Websites including www.NetHelp.org and www.GroupLearning.org

BJ: Thanks everyone. Fred, want to get started?

FredS: First, Let's Check out www.GroupLearning.org for a few minutes, and then come back here and we'll discuss it...

BJ . o O (click on the blue hyperlink)

BJ: Susan and Uver, have you seen this site before?

FredS: Any questions ?

UverC: No. But it's exactly the type of material I've been looking for! Great

BJ: Perhaps you should explain the jigsaw method, Fred

BJ . o O (unless Susan and Uver are already familiar with it?)

FredS: A summary of the Jigsaw Group Learning Method is at:

<http://www.jigsawhelper.net/jigsawgrouping.htm>

UverC: I'll be using Jigsaw activities with my students in a networked environment ...

SusanSi: I have read a lot about it

BJ: Dan, we're looking at <http://www.jigsawhelper.net/jigsawgrouping.htm>

UverC: And try to identify evidence of negotiation of meaning, which according to the interaction hypothesis serves to promote language learning

FredS: A summary of Jigsaw Grouping is at

<http://www.jigsawhelper.net/jigsawgrouping.htm> and more detailed step by step instructions are at <http://www.jigsawhelper.net/jigsawgroupinghelper/>

FredS: Any questions ?

UverC: Any specific sources of jigsaw activities for foreign language learning?

SusanSi: is this method successful with 4th graders?

FredS: Jigsaw Grouping can be used with 4th graders or any class of students so long as they can read the material being presented

FredS: I am not aware of any specific jigsaw activities for foreign language learning, but I think that Jigsaw could work well in that area

SusanSi: I was thinking about trying it with our study of the seasons--a good one to start with

FredS: Yes Susan, the seasons would work great because the main topic of seasons breaks nicely into 4 different Expert areas of Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring, which don't directly build on each other

SusanSi: any ideas for math?

BJ: actually, that would also be good for language learning too...lots of descriptive terms

BJ: what about patterns, Susan?

BJ: o O (patterns in nature...)

SusanSi: I'm thinking...

BJ: where else do you find patterns?

UverC: Research shows that jigsaw activities trigger a lot of negotiation ... students constantly ask for confirmations, requests for clarification, repetitions, recalls.

FredS: Math is a little trickier, because sometimes the parts or steps in a math lesson tend to build on each other, and Jigsaw needs to have each Expert part stand alone, and no part needs to be learned first to understand the others

BJ: tessellations might be considered a pattern

FredS: Yes Uver, Jigsaw is great for learning Social Skills

BJ: and Fibonacci numbers

SusanSi: ok--you got me there

FredS: Elliot Aronson, who invented Jigsaw in 1971, has done much research to show that even occasional use of Jigsaw Grouping can result in significant improvement in Social Skills and Reduction in School Violence

FredS: as well as improvement in Academic learning

SusanSi: this is a great reason to use jigsaw grouping

FredS: Exactly Susan!

SusanSi: my rural students need help with their social skills!

DanMu: I arrived late. What is jigsaw grouping?

BJ: <http://www.jigsawhelper.net/jigsawgrouping.htm>

FredS: Unfortunately, the current emphasis on drilling and testing omits any social skill learning, however even occasional use of Jigsaw Grouping can result in significant social skill learning

SusanSi: there are some great links on your site, Fred

FredS: Thanks...

SusanSi: I got the results of our state test today

SusanSi: my kids passed-100%--but it seems that is all they care about

SusanSi: I like for learning to be fun

FredS: Jigsaw Grouping is fun for most students

FredS: Any more questions...

SusanSi: how often do you think groupings should change? With every assignment?

SusanSi: Uver-what age do you teach?

UverC: Nowadays only adults

FredS: Let's check out a WebQuest that includes Jigsaw Grouping, and then come back here to discuss it - www.VikingQuest.net

FredS: Questions ?

SusanSi: looks very interesting!

FredS: Yes Susan, but it is up to the teacher - I usually let the students self-select their initial Home Group members and then the Expert Groups tend to be randomly formed

based on the interest of the students in selecting their Expert Areas to Learn about and then Teach back to their Home Groups - However, some teacher like to assign Home Groups

FredS: Also, an easier approach is to use a whole class with the teacher helping approach to the final Home Group part of Jigsaw - in case some students are not capable of teaching their part to their Home Group by themselves

UverC: Thanks for all the links and suggestions. They will surely be useful for my research.

FredS: Any more questions?

FredS: If anyone has any questions, feel free to email me at FSteinb@BoiseState.edu

BJ: thanks, Fred. You're on for June?

FredS: Yes BJ

BJ: thanks

SusanSi: thanks-I have enjoyed the chat

FredS: No Problem - I'm here every third Tuesday of the Month