

Collaborative Teaching Options

When preparing to reinforce a topic or subject there are a variety of options available to allow the optimum learning experience. This is NOT a comprehensive list - be creative. Remember to vary the exercises.

Agree-Disagree - A series of purposely controversial statements on a given subject. Class members indicate whether they agree or disagree with the statements and why.

Brainstorming - Class members suggest as many ideas as possible on a subject, withholding evaluation until all ideas are presented.

Small Groups - Students are grouped in small groups of 3-5 students to discuss a given topic for a limited period of time. The results of the discussion can be presented in any of the ways listed here.

Case Studies - Real-life problem situations are presented; class members analyze the problems and suggest solutions.

Circle Response - Each person in turn gives his/her response to a question or statement presented. No one may comment except during his/her turn.

Debate - Speakers holding assigned opposing views on a controversial subject present their views while the audience observes. Debriefing this exercise allows students the opportunity to analyze and synthesize.

Panel - Assigned students come prepared to discuss a certain topic as professionals in the field and are expected to answer questions.

Interview - Students are assigned to interview someone about their knowledge regarding a certain topic or field of knowledge.

Lecture - The instructor prepares a structured outline and presents information about a specific topic, usually without discussion although sometimes discussion or a question/answer format is used to allow student participation.

Abridged Edition - Individuals or groups read a section of the text, then condense it to its basic meaning

Group Writing - A small group of students work together to complete a writing assignment (story, script, report, etc.)

Lists - Individuals or groups itemize specific ideas on work sheets or poster paper

Open-ended Story - Small groups are given unfinished stories and asked to complete them in order to resolve the story situation on the basis of information being studied.

Billboard (Brochure) - Individuals or small groups are given the task of designing a billboard or a brochure, deciding which information to keep and which information to exclude and why.

Graphs/Timelines - Individuals or small groups are assigned the task of taking the information being studied and presenting that information in a way that is visually meaningful.

Newspaper Article - A short article about the subject is assigned to be written using a specific number of words and for a specific audience (e.g. 75 words for a community newspaper, or a professional magazine, or a newsletter for retired individuals)

Value Shuffle - Values from 1 to 10 are posted around the room. Different statements are read and students are asked to stand under the number which correlates with how they feel about or agree with the statement.

Dramatic Vignette - Individuals or small groups are assigned the task of writing a small dramatic vignette of 3 to 5 minutes using the interaction of the characters and the scene to convey their understanding of the subject.

Role Play - Students are assigned a role to play with either the group or another individual responding from the perspective of the information being taught.