

Jigsaw Groups

Purpose:

Allows students to become more responsible learners and to gain a deeper understanding of an assignment by becoming teachers for other students.

Materials:

Article or project that can easily be divided into four sections. For example, the life of Eleanor Roosevelt (her childhood, her family [children and husband], her work as First Lady, her work after Franklin's death) would be a suitable topic.

Procedure:

1. Divide students into groups of four. These are the Jigsaw Groups.
2. Assign each member of the group a different portion of the article or project to be examined or conducted.
3. Have group members from different Jigsaw Groups that are assigned the same portion of the article or project reform into groups known as Expert Groups.
4. Each Expert Group should explore their assignment and work together to become experts on the topic.
5. Once Expert Groups are comfortable with their topics, have them rejoin their original Jigsaw Groups.
6. Because each Jigsaw Group now has one expert on each topic, these experts can easily explain to the rest of their group what they learned about their portion.

The Jigsaw Group strategy was developed by Elliot Aronson. For more information visit <http://www.jigsaw.org>