Title: Jigsaw

The Basics

What? Cooperative learning technique in which groups of students develop expertise about a text or part of a text and then have the opportunity to share their expertise with a different group of students

When? As students read a text

Why? Develops communication skills and provides an opportunity for students to create a depth of knowledge that would not be possible if the students were required to learn all of the material independently

Student Outcomes

This strategy helps students refine their understanding of texts to meet reading expectations and engage in group conversations to meet speaking and listening expectations.

How to Implement

1. Choose a text and divide the text into four or more sections or choose four or more separate texts for students to read.
2. Introduce students to "home" groups. The home group consists of 3-4 students who will become experts in varying sections of the text or various texts.
3. Assign each student from a home group to a different expert group.
4. In each expert group, provide students with the same text or section of a text.
5. Establish a purpose for reading and prompt students to use an annotation legend or questions to guide their reading of the text. Allow time for students to independently read and analyze their assigned text in their expert groups.
6. After reading, allow time for the expert groups to determine the content to share and the best way to share the content with their home group.
7. Then ask each student to return to their home group and provide structured time for the students to present the information they received from the text in their expert group with the home group.
8. Finally, have the home groups summarize the information they learned through whole-class discussion, a presentation to the class, a graphic organizer, writing assignment, etc.

Resources for Additional Information

- Implementation guide from TheTeacherToolkit.org with downloadable elementary and secondary templates
- Brief video that demonstrates this strategy in an 8th grade classroom from TeachingChannel.org
- In-depth video demonstrating this strategy in a 7th grade classroom from TeachingChannel.org
- Description of this strategy from ReadWriteThink.org that includes an implementation guide
- Description of this strategy from ReadingRockets.org
- Examples of how to use in lessons: Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8