INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES



Numbered Heads Together

This cooperative learning strategy engages students in processing and checking their understanding of a lesson.

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NUMBERED HEADS TOGETHER

Summary

Students number off in groups of four and “put their heads together” to come up with the best response to the teacher’s question. Everyone in the group needs to know the answer and be ready to respond. The teacher then selects a number and asks students with that number in each group to respond.

Procedure

1. Divide students into groups of four.
2. Within each group, assign students with number 1–4.
3. Ask the class a thought-provoking question.
4. Have students discuss a response within their group and make sure everyone in the group can respond.
5. Select and announce a number from 1–4.
6. Have the person with that number from each group share their group’s response with the class (e.g., if you choose number 3, every student who was assigned number 3 needs to share their group’s response.)

Maheady, L., Mallette, B., Harper, G. F., & Sacca, K. (1991). Heads together. Remedial and Special Education, 12(2), 25–33. https://doi.org/10.1177/074193259101200206