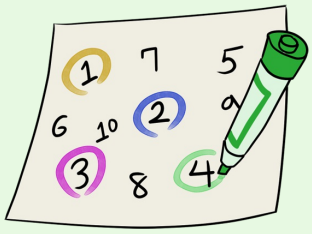
INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES



Color By Number

A small-group activity where participants take turns highlighting numbers in order, then pause and reflect to try a new strategy to improve performance.

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COLOR BY NUMBER

Summary

This activity gives participants a hands-on way to see how planning, pattern recognition, and intentional collaboration can turn a seemingly chaotic task into something manageable. Whether used in a classroom, professional development session, or team-building setting, this activity encourages meaningful discussion about how real-world challenges become easier when we identify patterns and use effective strategies.

Procedure

1. Form groups of four and give each person a different colored marker.
2. Group members take turns, highlighting the numbers 1-100 in sequence (Person 1 highlights 1, Person 2 highlights 2, and so on).
3. When it is time for the first person to take another turn, the group continues to highlight the next number in the sequence.
4. Group members may talk and help each other, but each person must highlight their own numbers.
5. After three minutes, pause and briefly discuss what felt challenging and what learners noticed about the page.
6. As a group, agree on a new strategy, then repeat the activity using the revised plan.
7. (Optional) Use the attached Reflection Questions to lead a discussion about what they have learned.

Gibson, T. (n.d.). How to teach group work in math class. YouTube. [Video]. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BWPvE3sDPU VanDerWerf, S. (2022, October). 100 Numbers to Get Students Talking. VDW: Inspiration and resources for mathematics teachers. https://www.saravanderwerf.com/100-numbers-to-get-students-talking/