

Designing Effective Projects: Cooperative Learning Brainstorming

Brainstorming Structures

The use of cooperative brainstorming is an effective and valuable strategy that calls upon teams of students to brainstorm thoughts and build upon one another's flow of ideas in a safe environment. With creative groupings, students have opportunities to work together and learn important content at the same time. Dr. Spencer Kagan, an expert on cooperative grouping structures has created a myriad of cooperative grouping structures to use with students of all ages. The main goal of these structures is to promote:

- Participation in structured interactions
- Equal participation
- Student interaction
- Effective communication
- Cooperative learning as part of any lesson

Through many years of research and training, Dr. Spencer Kagan has refined and developed over 160 structures. All of these give teachers a well planned way to group students and teach them important content in engaging ways.

Check out Dr. Kagan's Web site to read articles and learn more about these brainstorming structures: www.kaganonline.com/KaganClub/FreeArticles.html*