



Jigsaw

Overview

Jigsaw is a cooperative learning strategy that breaks classes into groups and breaks assignments into segments. Each student is assigned to learn one segment and present to their group. Research shows that teacher integration of literacy-related instructional strategies facilitates student learning across all content areas.

Jigsaw is ideal for: quick summary or wrap-up of content, tying multiple concepts together, and showing relationships between concepts.

Jigsaw meets the following [WSU Learning Goals](#): critical and creative thinking, diversity, communication, and depth, breadth, and integration of learning.

Group size: 1-5 | **Active Time:** 30 mins | **Prep. Time:** High

Active time is an estimate and may vary depending on your class.

Implementation

Suggested Tech Tools: Blackboard Discussion Board, Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, Padlet

Instructor:

Divide the topic into the number of groups you will be creating. For instance, if you have five groups, you will need five topic segments. Each topic segment should have specific expectations for the student—what should they be paying attention to and what level of detail are you expecting? Prepare students for all steps of the activity before starting—students should know in advance that they will be changing groups and responsible for teaching their segment to their new group.

Students:

Part 1: Expert Group—Same Topic Segment

1. Review your topic segment and then meet in your expert group to compare notes.
2. As a group, identify the important information from your segment that you will teach to your new group.

Part 2: Teaching Your New Group—Bringing All Topic Segments Together

3. Each group member will present their segment to their new group.
4. As a group, work together to create a cohesive group summary. Be prepared to share.

Variations & Tips:

- For **face-to-face**, **video conference (VC)**, and **large-enrollment** courses, use the grid format in Padlet to allow students to create a visual representation of their jigsaw.
- In **online** and **VC** courses, provide a structured area for your groups to collaborate and communicate using Blackboard Discussion Board or Collaborate Ultra.
- Provide enough time for students to read and become familiar with the content.
- Have students create a group concept map (in lieu of writing a summary) and share with the class using Padlet.
- To ensure all group members received adequate information, add an assessment component. Students' grades can be based on the average of the group score.

You may also be interested in:

Think-Pair-Share
Case Study
Concept Mapping

Resources:

[Jigsaw Overview](#)

Let's explore the possibilities together!

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To find more activities, visit the LI website and select Teaching Tool Boxes.