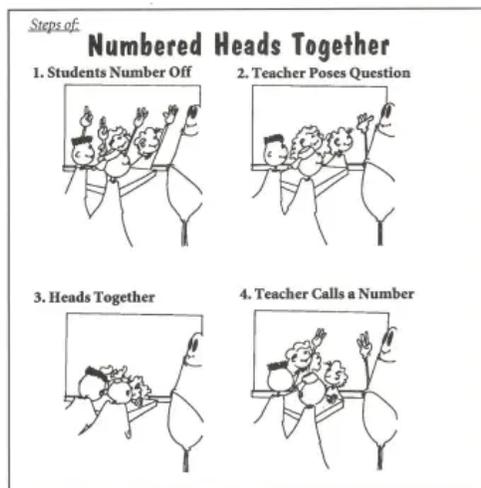


NUMBERED HEADS TOGETHER

Kagan, S. 1992. Cooperative learning. San Juan Capistrano, CA: Kagan Cooperative Learning.

Numbered Heads Together is an excellent structure to use to review concepts and confirm understandings. It fosters positive interdependence, simultaneous interactions and individual accountability. Students depend on each other to come up with an answer(s); they are all participating at the same time; and each student is accountable to know the response, since they do not know who is going to be selected. It is a simple structure, consisting of the four steps illustrated below:



Procedures:

1. Students number off. Each student on the team has a different number (typically 1 – 4).
2. Teacher asks a question. Ideally, the question requires a multiple parts response, so that more than one team can respond.
3. Students literally put their heads together and make sure everyone knows the answer.
4. Teacher calls a number. After the teacher calls a random number (1 – 4), the student in each team with that number either raise their hands or stand and the teacher calls them one at the time. A spinner or some other method to randomize the calling of numbers may be used. (Note: When single-answer questions are used, one student on each team can write the answer on a small white board. When the teacher call the number, that student raises their board. This enables all teams to respond simultaneously.

Assigning points:

If points want to be assigned, Each team answering correctly earns the same number of points. To minimize the notion of winners and losers, team should be encouraged to focus on improving their score from the last time the structure was used. In addition, the amount of improvement can be added to the team's score. For example, Team X earns 5 points during the activity. Last time they "played," they earned 3 points. The two-point gain is added to their score: $3 + 5 + 2 = 10$.