Numbered Heads Together

The structure of Numbered Heads Together is derived from the work of Spencer Kagan. There are a number of variations on the method, some very simple and others with a greater degree of complexity.

**STEPS of Number Heads Together**

1. Number off the students in each group, up to four. If one group is smaller than the others have no. 3 answer for no. 4 as well. The teacher can give numbers or students can give numbers themselves.
2. Teacher asks the students a question or sets a problem to solve. It must be stressed that everyone in the group must be able to participate and answer the question.
3. Ensure enough ‘wait time is given for the group to do the task.

There is an expectation that everyone in the group will be able to answer the question following the discussion. “Make sure you can all…” There are many other ways of ensuring the teacher cues the students into the collaborative activity.

The students work together. They quite literally “put their heads together” in order to solve the problem and also ensure that everyone in the group can answer the question.

- The teacher now asks for an answer by calling a number. (This might be at random or can be decided by the teacher in order to ensure the process is successful.) All the students with the same number then answer (see below 4 possible choices.)
- If there are not enough students ready to respond the teacher may judge that a little more time is needed or extra support given.
- When the teacher is satisfied answers can be taken, there are a number of choices:
  A. Choral Response
  B. Stand and Deliver
  C. White Boards
  D. Blackboard Share

**APPLICATION**

- To involve whole class in the consideration of a question or problem.
- To increase individual accountability.
- To increase group teaching so that all members of the group are coached.
- To increase team spirit and satisfaction.
- To give support to all students in consideration of challenging questions or problems.