Roundtable

Description of Roundtable

Roundtable is a quick and effective teaching strategy that immediately engages your students in teams to:
- identify their prior knowledge about a concept or topic,
- creatively brainstorm possibilities for a problem posed,
- demonstrate their level of understanding and mastery, and
- review material previously covered.

Set-up

1. Arrange students into a variety of random teams.
   a. Teams of THREE work best when the material is difficult, requires more thought and analysis, or takes longer to work out.
   b. Teams of FOUR work best when the material is based on quick-recall, short answers, and simple processes.
   c. Teams of FIVE work best when each team uses two worksheets on the same topic. The students have the option to “hop-over” slower working students ahead of them. This is called “Simultaneous Roundtable.”

2. Hand-out Worksheet:
   The worksheet may range from a blank sheet of paper, a map or diagram, a practice/review page, or a graphic organizer. One per team unless for a Team of Five.

3. Identify the specific goal of the worksheet:
   - list as many, - provide examples, - solve the problem, - check the work, - label and identify.

4. Provide a target range for the number of answers you were looking for within a given time period. (e.g. Let’s see if you can complete at least 12 in the next 3 minutes.)

Steps

1. The students are handed the paper. The team decides which direction the paper will rotate.
   On the teacher’s signal all teams begin to fill-in their worksheet.

2. Each student has the right to “pass” ONCE if they cannot think of an answer.

3. If the student has already used their “pass” and cannot think of an answer they ask the team member next in rotation to provide them an answer. The student writes the answer down.

4. The paper skips the team member that gave the answer and now passes two team members away.

5. Each team can be given time to recheck, clarify, rank, or sort their answers. Teams can compare their worksheets.