Tips on Cooperative Learning to Engage All

Informal CL Activities: Students are informally tasked with communicating with a classmate(s). Important that teacher monitors (unobtrusively assesses) while activities are going on. When calling on student, important to call randomly/unpredictably.

- **Think-Pair-Share (TPS):** When Teacher (T) wants students to process information given, has students turn to their partner, share, and randomly calls on one to share what they talked about.
- **Partner Prediction (PP):** When T wants students to predict an outcome, predict what comes next, predict results, etc., like TPS except that when student is called on, must say “My partner __________ said ________.”
- **Mix-Pair-Share (MPS):** After 10-20 minutes of providing information, T has students, on cue, get out of their seats, walk around the room, mix, say hi, etc., then on next cue they must pair off and either do a TPS or PP activity.

Formal CL Activities: Students are grouped by T. Important to heterogeneously group – groups mixed according to gender, ethnicity, etc. Variety of ways to do this. If a project is involved where groups will be working together for 1 or more weeks, use Contract and Member Accountability sheets.

- **Talking Tokens (TT):** When students in a group, each student has three “Tokens” – can be paper clips, file cards, post-it notes, etc. T prompts group with a task (e.g. “What is the single biggest take-away from this activity? Why do you feel that way.”) Students, when they talk, put their token in. When they are out of tokens, they can no longer talk. Redistribute the tokens when everyone has contributed.
- **Numbered Heads Together:** Students, in groups, are given a group letter (A,B, etc.) and students number off within their groups (1, 2, 3, 4). Teacher asks a question, allows groups to process answer. Students’ task are two-fold, make sure they know the answer, and ensure that everyone in their group knows the answer. After appropriate amount of time. T says “Heads Up” and randomly calls on a group/number to answer (A1, B2, etc.).
- **Roles:** Students are assigned roles in their group as they put together a project or presentation. Roles include Reader, Writer, Answerer/Presenter, Spy (allowed to go to other groups to see what they have and report back to home group), timer, facilitator, etc.
- **Jigsaw:** Like what we did here at the conference. Start with Home Groups, go to Expert Groups, come back and report out to Home Groups.