

Discussion Handout

Module # 3

Cooperative Learning

In this module, unlike the first two, I am proposing that the principal determine when discussion times should take place. I also suggest an option with the text-heavy slides may be to read them before the group meets together and then discuss as a whole group and or partner share and then whole group.

Here are possible discussion questions:

1. What are the three instructional strategies that should be used effectively in every classroom?
2. What is the difference between cooperative learning and group work?
3. What are the benefits of using the cooperative learning strategy in your classroom?
4. Define cooperative learning in your own words.
5. What are the five basic elements of cooperative learning? Define each and explain each element carefully.
6. The first type of cooperative learning on the video is informal cooperative learning. Define this type and give examples from the variety of handouts you have been given including the resource section. How will you begin to immediately implement this type in your classroom? Who will hold you accountable? When and how? Feedback?
7. The second type of cooperative learning on the video is formal cooperative learning. Define this type and give examples from the variety of handouts you have been given including the resource section. I challenge you to try this type in your classroom. Who will hold you accountable? When and how? Feedback?
8. What is meant by assigning roles in cooperative learning?
9. Why would a teacher use a T-chart when implementing a cooperative learning strategy?
10. Within the second type of cooperative learning on the video is cooperative base groups. Define what they are and give an example as to how they would be set up in your classroom. I challenge you to try them in your classroom. Who will hold you accountable? When and how? Feedback?
11. Is it possible to integrate #6, #7, and #8 into your classroom at once? Defend your answer with a peer and then the whole group.

12. Discuss some common mistakes teachers make when implementing cooperative learning in their classrooms. How can these mistakes be prevented?

Example-

Mistake: Making base groups with seven students in each group.

Appropriate Action: base groups should be no larger than five students in each. Three is optimum. 5 can work as long as they don't split into pairs.

13. Scenario: A teacher teaches a math lesson to the whole group. Discuss how a math assignment may be done cooperatively.

14. Scenario: A teacher uses literature circles to teach a novel. How could a lesson be designed cooperatively?

15. Scenario: A teacher has a large amount of text for the students to read in science or social studies class. Why would a cooperative learning jigsaw activity work well in these instances?

16. How do you feel you should assess and then evaluate a cooperative learning assignment completed by your students?