

JIGSAW

The jigsaw strategy is one of the most powerful methods to use when presenting or analyzing narrative materials. By using this approach, the teacher can cover large amounts of material in less time with greater participant comprehension and involvement. The method requires each person in the group to read a different section of the content and then to teach the other members of the group what he/she learned.

1. The material is divided into parts and numbered. If the small groups are composed of four members, then the material is divided into four equal parts.
2. The group members are numbered off and each one is assigned the section that corresponds to his/her number.
3. The teacher establishes a timeframe during which each participant is to read his/her assigned section. (Five minutes is probably plenty.)
4. After reading, each member then determines how best to teach the material to the rest of the group. The teacher should suggest that members NOT read the material to the group but instead use paraphrasing and summarizing as teaching strategies.
5. Beginning with #1, the group members teach their section of the material to the rest of the group. The teacher acts as the timekeeper, signaling when it is time to move to #2, #3, and #4. (Two or three minutes is sufficient, depending on the complexity of the material.)
6. After all group members have finished, the presenter should provide some time for large group discussion in case some groups need clarification.

