

NUMBERED HEADS

I first saw this strategy (Diagram 4) on a T.V. game show, in which it was used as a light-hearted way of ensuring that all contestants received a turn. Spencer Kagan has formalized it for the classroom, referring to it as Numbered Heads. It provides the teacher with an opportunity to directly engage a large number of students at the one time.

To implement this activity:

1. Divide the class into teams of four members.
2. Assign the numbers 1,2,3 and 4 to the members of each team. If there are extra students, then create teams of five, and ask two students to share the '4' role.
3. The teacher then directs a question to all of the teams, eg "What is the chemical formula for water?"
4. Each team discusses the question, and attempts to reach consensus on the answer.
5. The teacher then calls out a number between 1 and 4, such as 3, and all 3's then raise their hand to provide their team's answer.
6. After receiving the correct answer, the teacher moves on to other questions. The four numbers are chosen at random during usage of this strategy.

The self-esteem of students who sometimes struggle with their work is boosted immeasurably by Numbered Heads. Instead of being constantly embarrassed by their lack of knowledge, these students will frequently be able to place their hand in the air and give the correct answer.

The dilemma of under-achieving high ability students can be partly resolved with this strategy. Just as the brilliant tryscorer in a sports team is lauded by the team members, so too the student who manages to provide many of the answers for their 'academic' team.

Variations

Establish the Numbered Heads structure within each team by following this procedure:

1. Each team appoints a 'teacher' who is responsible for directing the questions to other members of the team.
2. The 'teacher' then facilitates the process within their team by:
 - asking the question
 - allowing time for the team to discuss the question
 - calling upon one of the team members to provide the answer.

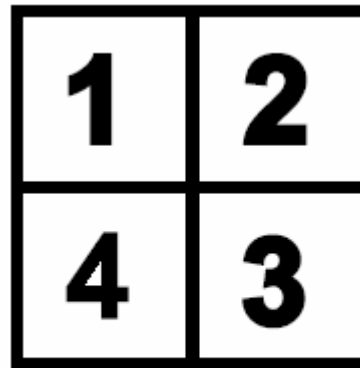


Diagram 4



TOPIC: _____



PURPOSE: _____



	2		3
	3		1
	1		2
	4		4
	3		4
	2		1
	1		2
	4		3
	1		3
	2		1
	4		4
	3		2
	1		2
	4		1
	2		3
	3		4

TEAM TALLY	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
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