

NUMBERED HEADS TOGETHER



Numbered Heads Together is a cooperative learning strategy that holds each student accountable for learning the material. Students are placed in groups and each person is given a number (from one to the maximum number in each group). The teacher poses a question and students "put their heads together" to figure out the answer. The teacher calls a specific number to respond as spokesperson for the group. By having students work together in a group, this strategy ensures that each member knows the answer to problems or questions asked by the teacher. Because no one knows which number will be called, all team members must be prepared.

After the students respond, have the other groups agree or disagree with the answer by showing a thumbs up or thumbs down, and then explain their reasoning. Or, if the answer needs clarifying, ask another student to expand on the answer.

Steps for the Strategy

1. Divide the class into groups of 2, 3 or 4.
2. Students number off in the group.
3. Present a problem to the students.
4. Each group is to come up with the answer and make sure that everyone in the group knows it.
5. Teachers calls a number and the person with the corresponding number has to answer the question.

Variations

- Instead of sharing out with the class, they share with their answers with students who have the same number.
- Reinforce mental math by calling numbers as the result of mental math problems. (e.g. Call on students whose number is the square of two.)

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Management Tips

- Before posing a question, make sure each person is assigned a number.
- Having students sit in a specific seat according to number insures honesty in responding.
- Model how to make sure each person knows the answer.

Social Skills

- 1.Active Listening
- 2.Appropriate noise level.
- 3.Collective responsibility.