## **Cooperative Learning Routines**

Cooperative Learning

**Purpose:** These routines provide consistent opportunities for students to work together and learn from one another.

Research Basis: Cooperative learning routines take advantage of classroom diversity and make it a vital resource for helping all students acquire challenging academic content and language. These routines promote active engagement and social motivation for all students. For English language learners, they also create opportunities for purposeful communication. Regular use of such routines has been shown to be effective (Johnson & Johnson 1986; Kagan 1986; Slavin 1988).

STRUCTURE & GRAPHIC	DESCRIPTION	BENEFITS & PURPOSE
CORNERS  15  25  45	<ul> <li>Corners of the classroom are designated for focused discussion of four aspects of a topic.</li> <li>Students individually think and write about the topic for a short time.</li> <li>Students group into the corner of their choice and discuss the topic.</li> <li>At least one student from each corner shares about the corner discussion.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>By "voting" with their feet, students literally take a position about a topic.</li> <li>Focused discussion develops deeper thought about a topic.</li> <li>Students experience many valid points of view about a topic.</li> </ul>
FISHBOWL	<ul> <li>Part of a group sits in a close circle, facing inward; the other part of the group sits in a larger circle around them.</li> <li>Students on the inside discuss a topic while those outside listen for new information and/or evaluate the discussion according to preestablished criteria.</li> <li>Groups reverse positions.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Focused listening enhances knowledge acquisition and listening skills.</li> <li>Peer evaluation supports development of specific discussion skills.</li> <li>Identification of criteria for evaluation promotes self-monitoring.</li> </ul>
INSIDE-OUTSIDE CIRCLE	<ul> <li>Students stand in concentric circles facing each other.</li> <li>Students in the outside circle ask questions; those inside answer.</li> <li>On a signal, students rotate to create new partnerships.</li> <li>On another signal, students trade inside/outside roles.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Talking one-on-one with a variety of partners gives risk-free practice in speaking skills.</li> <li>Interactions can be structured to focus on specific speaking skills.</li> <li>Students practice both speaking and active listening.</li> </ul>
JIGSAW  A Expert Group 1	<ul> <li>Group students evenly into "expert" groups.</li> <li>Expert groups study one topic or aspect of a topic in depth.</li> <li>Regroup students so that each new group has at least one member from each expert group.</li> <li>Experts report on their study. Other students learn from the experts.</li> </ul>	Becoming an expert provides in-depth understanding in one aspect of study.      Learning from peers provides breadth of understanding of over-arching concepts.





