

Forming Groups

Team/Cooperative Group Selection Ideas:

1. Select a class “callback” and practice with group before beginning work.
Callbacks can be any phrase, title, quote that the facilitator begins and the participants complete bringing everyone’s attention back for further instruction.
2. When the leader knows how many will be participating, groups may be selected through the use of some token (i.e. colored paper shapes) or the marking of each handout with numbers or different colored markers/self-adhesive dots, shapes, etc.
 - Be creative and, if possible, connect it with curriculum/concept being addressed. For example in math, use different math symbols or vocabulary words, in music - music symbols, etc.
 - If higher level thinking is desired, index cards with different math facts could be used. E.g. Group 1 - 4×8 ; 2×16 ; $46 - 14$; $64 \div 2$
 - In social studies one group of cards could be the names of rivers, another be state capitals, etc.
 - In spelling the groups could be ones with suffixes, prefixes, rhyming words, etc.

These can be distributed as students come into class, already be at the student’s seat or handed out randomly before beginning activity.

3. The facilitator directs participants to the location in room where each group is to meet.

Suggestion: Have paper tents on the tables with the matching symbols/category and participants are directed to the table with the tent that matches their color/number/shape, etc.

Note: If it is known that some participants should not be together, the identifying symbols can be placed so as to avoid potentially difficult combinations.

4. Within the groups selection for roles can be determined by giving criteria such as:
 - Birth date order beginning in January. Earliest birthday goes 1st, etc.
 - Height order
 - Last 4 digits of phone number are highest/lowest
 - Most letters in name - if it is a tie use both first and last
 - Alphabetical order of names

5. To determine who goes first within a group, criteria such as:
- One with most jewelry
 - One who lives closest to school/conference room
 - One with lowest home address
 - One with birthday closest to (nearest holiday) e.g. Valentine's Day
 - One who has clothes with most buttons