

Oral Language Activities

Small-Group Discussions

In small-group discussions, assigning roles to group members encourages co-operation and an opportunity to develop social and communication skills. The successful arrangement of students ensures that individuals are dependent upon one another to achieve a common goal. The responsibility for directing the task and contributing ideas is equally shared.

Procedure:

1. Discuss various roles to be assigned to group members (e.g., manager, recorder, encourager, reporter).
2. Share charts with role assignments and descriptions of each role.
3. Brainstorm comments that students might say to each other while in role.
4. Create small groupings of students (four students per group is optimal).
5. Explain the group task and provide ample time for task completion.
6. Observe students during the group activity and assist groups that are having difficulty.
7. Share examples of effective interaction and encourage students to reflect on the experience.