

Circle of Knowledge

Most frequently used for:

Sharing group projects and products without a long series of oral group reports.
Involving groups in the production of multiple responses to questions asked by the teacher.
Good for review, for introducing a new topic, and many other applications.

Necessary materials:

Paper and pencils
Chart paper works very well, especially for posting the responses afterwards.

Description:

Originated by Rite and Kenneth Dunn, the Circle of Knowledge process is an excellent tool for review, and for focusing in depth on one concept or skill at a time. Questions, tasks, problems, or discussion items can vary depending on the subject area and the purpose of the circle activity. Circle of Knowledge insures that all students participate equally, and that every student will know when they must get involved.

1. The class is divided into small groups from four to seven students in each group. Each group selects a Recorder, or that person might be selected by the teacher, each recorder is provided with a recording sheet designed by the teacher. This sheet will tell the teacher of the effort from the group and acts as a form of team accountability.
2. Each circle responds to the same assignment. The person to the right of the recorder begins, with an answer to the question, problem, or issue posed by the teacher. Each member of the circle responds, one at a time, in clockwise fashion. No one may skip a turn, respond out of turn, or edit, modify, or critique another person's response.
3. The recorder writes down every response exactly as given, while the teacher circulates from circle to circle listening to responses, reminding students of the rules, and so on.
4. At the end of the pre-determined period of time, the teacher asks each recorder to share the responses of their group, taking turns identifying one at a time from each group, eventually making certain to include everything on the sheet.
5. But, as in Stand and Share, each response can be mentioned only once, so that if an answer is given by one group, the other recorders cross that off their list of responses. So, all responses are heard, but there is no oral repetition.
6. The circle activity can be completed with an individual quiz or assignment that is related to careful listening to all the responses. As a variation, it is possible to have each group in the class work on a different problem or issue, with students required to take notes on the report that each group makes to the class. You can probably think of many other ways to adapt this strategy to your class.

Group size: 4- 7

Time required: A class period

Subject areas: All

Circle of Knowledge

GROUP MEMBERS:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Question or Prompt for Brainstorming:

Collective Responses: