

DOINGWHATWORKS



SAMPLE MATERIAL

More Peer Learning Routines

Heritage Elementary School, Oregon

Topic: Teaching Literacy in English to K-5 English Learners

Practice: Schedule Peer Learning

Heritage Elementary School has found that explicit written directions for routines help keeps students on task while they are carrying out small-group or partner work. Here's an example of the procedures Heritage uses to guide students through literature discussions. Note the emphasis on responsibility and cooperation.

PROCEDURES FOR LITERATURE CIRCLES

1. Choose jobs in your group (3 minutes maximum)
 - a. Each group member must have a different job
 - b. You cannot do the same job 2 times in a row
2. Agree on how many pages to read (2 minutes maximum)
 - a. Write it down on your job sheet, and don't read past that point!
3. Silent Reading Time (15-30 minutes)
 - a. Students silently reading agreed upon pages alone
 - b. Work on your job as you read
 - c. By the end of this time, you need to have finished the reading, and have your job finished, ready to share
4. Discussion (20-25 minutes)
 - a. Each member takes a turn sharing what they learned
 - b. Everyone listens respectfully to the other group members
5. Reflection (5 minutes)
 - a. Write down answers to these questions in your lit. circle folders:
 1. What did you like best about today's reading?
 2. What did you do well today?
 3. What is something you need to improve for next time?
6. If you finish reading before the rest of your group...
 - a. See the paper 'Book Reports' for ideas on ongoing projects you can work on while you wait for the rest of your group to finish reading, or if your group finishes reading and discussion before other groups.

There is always something you need to be doing, so it is your responsibility to stay focused and on task!