

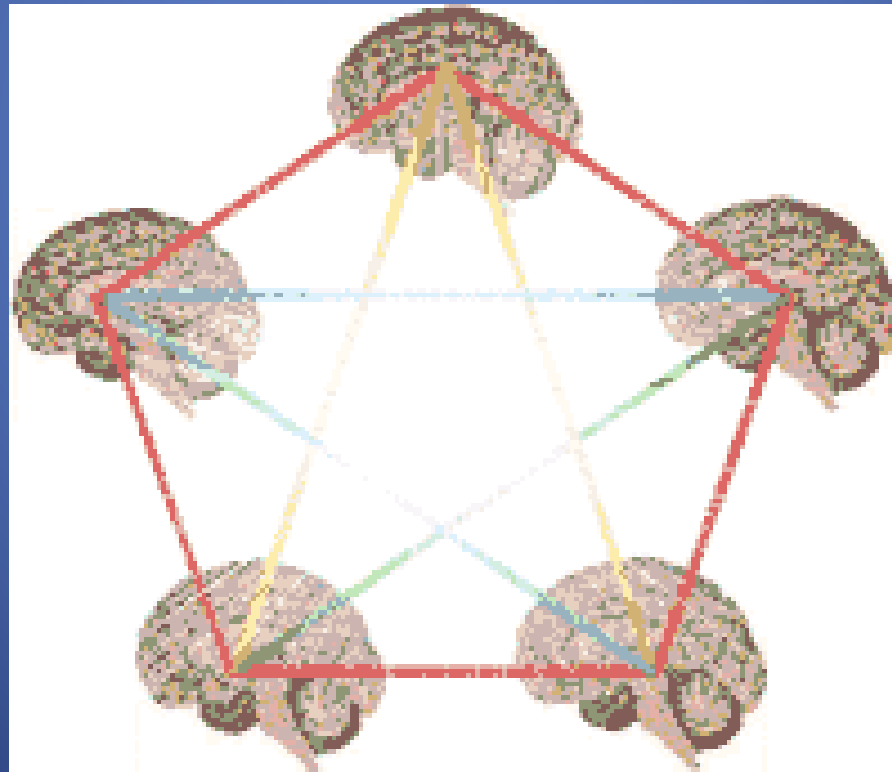
Creating Interdependence Situations in ESL Classroom

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Collaborative Learning: An instruction method in which learners work in groups toward a common academic goal. (Hari Srinivas, *The Global Development Research Center*)



44 Benefits of Collaborative Learning

1. Develops higher level thinking skills
2. Promotes student-faculty interaction and familiarity
3. Increases student retention
4. Builds self esteem in students
5. Enhances student satisfaction with the learning experience
6. Promotes a positive attitude toward the subject matter
7. Develops oral communication skills
8. Develops social interaction skills
9. Promotes positive race relations
10. Creates an environment of active, involved, exploratory learning
11. Uses a team approach to problem solving while maintaining individual accountability
12. Encourages diversity understanding
13. Encourages student responsibility for learning
14. Involves students in developing curriculum and class procedures
15. Students explore alternate problem solutions in a safe environment
16. Stimulates critical thinking and helps students clarify ideas through discussion and debate

Source: Posted on Co-Learn mailing list by Ted Panitz, Professor of Mathematics and Engineering, Cape Cod Community College

How can I promote collaborative learning and create interdependence situations in the ESL classroom, advanced writing class?

How can I help my students review all rhetorical modes in 2 and a half hours?



- Utilize a jigsaw method and have students work in groups of 5.
- Assign each group a prompt and let students do the rest of the work.

Task Activities

- - Upon receiving a prompt, students identify a rhetorical mode that the question elicits.
- - Students brainstorm together and create an outline.
- - Each group member becomes responsible for writing one paragraph.
- - When students complete their paragraphs, they peer-edit their group-mates' writing pieces.
- - The put together an essay.

Sample essay prompts:

- 1) Do people have to be married to have children?
- 2) What are the effects of illiteracy?
- 3) Explain the reasons why many people detest or are prejudiced against people from certain ethnic groups?
- 4) Generally, Americans believe in equal opportunities for all, but they don't necessarily think that everybody is equal. In your opinion, is everybody equal?

- *Samples of completed group essays will be provided and shown by the presenter.*