Jigsaw Exercise

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First Grouping
- The first grouping (‘experts’) works best with about 5 students assigned to each group.
- Assign each student within each group a number (1-5, or however many students are in each group).
- The expert groups meet to brainstorm and learn about a common topic or interest.
- As needed, provide prompts to guide students’ discussion in groups.
- Expert groups can meet before or after the students have read something about the topic. If they meet before, it is to brainstorm ideas which they then verify through the reading. If they meet after, it is to process and extend their understanding of the topic.
- These are called expert groups because when students finish the task, they can explain their portion of the project to others in the class.

Second Grouping
- For students to share what they have learned, re-constitute the groups by having all the students who were #1s form a group, and so on.
- These groups then share their combined knowledge: each student teaches the others in this second group what their expert group has learned.
- As a result, each student in the class hears about each of the expert group topics.
- To vary the activity, ask the expert groups to first identify why they think you grouped them as you did. As a result, they may identify new connections or challenges.

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