



## STRATEGIES FOR ORGANISING GROUP TALK

### Pair talk

- Easy to organise even in cramped classroom
- Promotes high levels of participation
- Expects sharply focused discussion
- Needs tight time deadlines

### Pairs to fours

- Students work together in pairs – friendship, boy/girl....
- Each pair joins another pair
- Explain and compare ideas

### Listening triads

Groups of three – each student takes on role of - talker, questioner or recorder

- Talker explains, comments or gives opinion
- Questioner prompts and clarifies
- Recorder makes notes

### Snowball

- Pairs discuss an issue or brainstorm initial ideas
- Double up to fours, then into eights....to compare ideas, sort out, prioritise,
- Agree further action
- Whole class comes together – spokesperson from each eight feeds back

### Rainbow groups

After small groups have discussed together:

- Students are given a colour
- Those with same colour join up
- Each takes turn to report back on their home group's work
- Possibly then start on new, combined task

## **Jigsaw**

Topic is divided into sections, then:

- students allocated 'home' groups of four
- each student is numbered (double up if odd number in group)
- form new 'expert' groups by number (all ones, twos etc)
- 'expert' groups undertake investigation, research, discuss their work – agree on main points for feedback
- 'expert' return to home group to report back findings

## **Envoys**

Groups carry out task, then:

- one person from each group is selected as 'envoy' moves to new group
- explains/summarises own group outcomes
- finds out host groups' outcomes
- returns to home group to report back