

WHAT IS IT?

The Jigsaw technique is designed for cooperative learning in small groups. Students are provided the opportunity to become “experts” in a particular subject, and share that knowledge with their peers.

This technique promotes both self and peer teaching which requires students to understand the material at a deeper level and engage in discussion, problem solving, and learning.

WHY USE IT?

The Jigsaw technique can help students to:

- develop expertise in a concept, topic or principle,
- apply the language of the discipline, and
- practice self and peer teaching.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Suited to:

- Flat floor
- Tiered lecture
- Small classes
- Large classes



Activity time
approximately runs for
20–30 minutes

HOW DO I DO IT?

1. Breakout into groups:

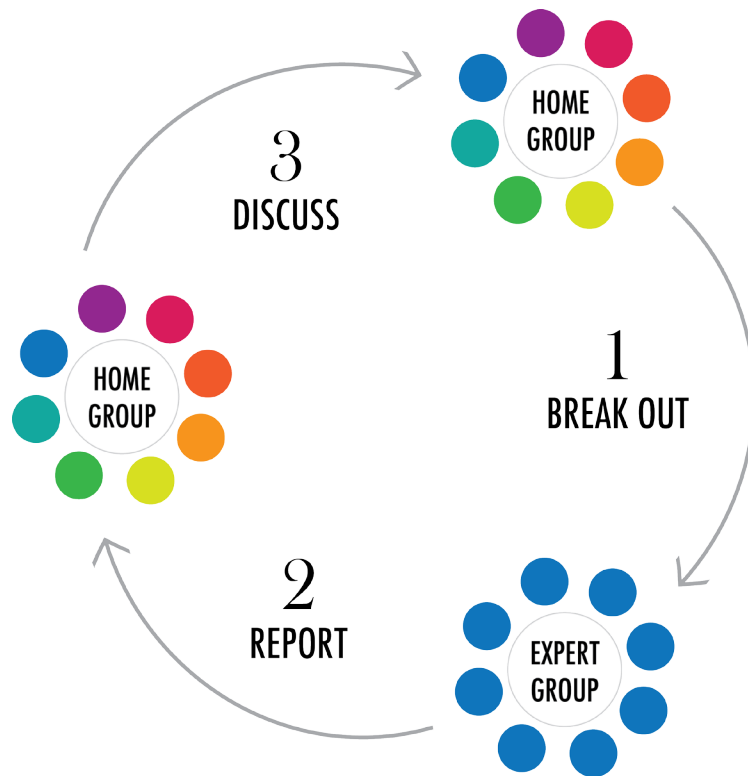
- Ask students to make small groups and allocate each one a number (i.e. 1, 2, 3). This is their *home group*.
- Ask students to find others with the same number as them and create a separate group. This is their *expert group*.
- Assign each expert group a concept, framework or theory to master. As a group, they should determine a way to explain their piece of the puzzle to others.

2. Report back to home group:

- Ask students to explain their piece of the puzzle, ensuring that all their home group members understand the material.

3. Discuss with home group:

- Ask students to connect the various pieces and put together the whole jigsaw, so that students are able to see where each part fits into the bigger picture.



WHAT COULD I USE?

- Butchers paper / sticky notes / whiteboards
- Pens / markers / pencils (different colours)

Digital tools are useful to capture and manage student responses and can be particularly useful for large classes.

- [Padlet](#) is a virtual “wall” where students can post their answers the whole class to see. Teachers can then collate answers for discussion, clarification and future review.

See also:

[In-class Active Learning Tools \(UQ\)](#)

WHAT IF I NEED SUPPORT?

- [ITaLI TeachAssist](#) for support curriculum design, evaluation and analytics
- [eLearning Solutions Service](#) customised support
- [eLearning A-Z guide](#) for UQ eLearning tools
- [UQ Library teaching support](#) offers tailored services and hosts [Lynda.com](#) (free online software training)
- [UQ staff development](#) for curriculum development support

WHAT IF I WANT MORE?

- [Jigsaw](#) - TeachLikeThis [video 5:46]
- [Jigsaw](#) - Goalbook Toolkit
- [How to Build a Better Educational System: Jigsaw Classrooms](#) - American Psychological