

Inside Outside Circles

What is it?

Inside Outside Circles is a cooperative learning structure that promotes sharing and understanding ideas and content.

What is its purpose?

Inside Outside Circles allows students the opportunity to interact with a variety of other students and to build collective knowledge and understanding.

How do I do it?

- Students sit in two concentric circles.
- Arrange students in pairs, facing each other.
- Each pair exchanges information about the visit or field trip to their local area to show what they observed, investigated and learned.
- After a given time each circle moves one place.
- Repeat the exchange in a new pair.
- Continue until students have shared information on a number of occasions.
- Reform as one large circle.
- Move around the circle, each student contributing one piece of information they learnt from another student.
- Transfer information onto cards.

How can I adapt it?

This strategy can be used to share understandings around a wide variety of topics.