



# Staff Development Newsletter

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Feeling Stressed?  
Try this stress relief tip to improve your mood at work!

- Engage in positive conversation with a co-worker, or just smile when greeting someone in the office. Research shows that positive moods and emotions lead people to think, feel, and act in ways that promote both resource building and involvement with expressed goals. Happy individuals are more likely to have fulfilling relationships, high incomes, and superior work performance.

-Taken from *A Healthy Outlook*- Vol.5 No.2

## All Pencils Down!

**TEAMMATES CONSULT:** An equitable classroom practice that incorporates all of our literacy best practices.

### PROCESS

The teacher selects or prepares a set of questions/problems that the students are to answer collaboratively in their group. The complexity of the information and the level of understanding required by the question determine the level of difficulty of the task. At no time during this process are students both talking and writing.

### STEPS

- 1) Students work in teams of three or four.
- 2) All students receive their own copy of the task.
- 3) A cup is placed in the center of each team's work space. Students begin by placing their pens/pencils

in the cup.

- 4) A student reads the first question.
- 5) With pencils still in the cup, students take turns sharing their ideas and answers to the question. Students may use their text and notes, if the teacher desires. Students discuss the answers and then come to consensus on the answer to the question.
- 6) The student to the left of the reader checks to see that all the group members understand and agree with the consensus answer.
- 7) **WHEN THERE IS GROUP AGREEMENT,** all students remove their pencils from the cup and write the answer to the question in their own words on their own paper.
- 8) When the students are

finished recording their answers, the steps are repeated with the remaining questions. Now, the checker becomes the new reader and the person on the left becomes the new checker.



Why is TEAMMATES CONSULT an equitable classroom strategy?

- \*Questions can be scaffolded.
- \*Everyone must participate.
- \*Everyone shares their ideas.
- \*Peer support for academic success is promoted.
- \*Discussion enhances retention of learned material.
- \*Misconceptions are clarified so everyone goes away with the correct information.

## Literacy For Every Classroom

This month, we will complete the O-R-I-D data analysis process by interpreting the peer visit data and making decisions about how to proceed with our professional development program. You provided valuable feedback on our literacy focus that the staff

development committee will also be incorporating into the plan.

Still unsure how literacy strategies can be incorporated into your content area? Check your mailbox for more proven strategies to increase student literacy in

ANY content area. You will positively find one you can use!

Also, be sure to consult your **Literacy Reference Guide** for numerous literacy tips when planning your instruction.

### Did you know???

- Carrie Booth is currently pursuing licensure to be a clinical professional counselor.
- Tracy Tomlinson is earning her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction with A&S Certification.
- Courtney Phelps was featured in *The Technology Teacher* as the finest in professional development.
- Kelly Spadin and Kelly Gowetski used a class set of AlphaSmarts for writing persuasive essays and students LOVED it!

