

Kagan Summer Academy 2009

This past July, Mrs. McNabb, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Alexander, and Ms. Boulton traveled to Orlando, Florida to take part in the Kagan Summer Academy. At the academy, the teachers attended four classes: The Writing Process: Orchestrate Student Success from Prewriting to Publishing, Comprehensive Literacy: Proven Strategies for All Dimensions of Literacy, Cooperative Learning for Little Ones, and Music-Movement-and More: Release Energy to Accelerate Learning.

Cooperative Learning for Little Ones provided a basic introduction into the cooperative learning strategies. Strategies learned during this workshop provided the building block background for attending the other workshops.

The Writing Process: Orchestrate Student Success from Prewriting to Publishing equipped the teachers with new, exciting ways to engage students in each step of the writing process. From learning new pre-writing strategies to improving students' abilities to peer edit and revise, the workshop provided resources that teachers can implement into their classrooms to improve students' performance regardless of their academic abilities.

Comprehensive Literacy: Proven Strategies for all Dimensions of Literacy demonstrated how cooperative learning can reach struggling readers and writers. The strategies learned supplement the current literacy curriculum. The workshop also addressed the five components of literacy: phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension. By the end of the workshop, teachers had the knowledge of how to enhance the current curriculum and incorporate each component into the daily routines.

Finally, Music, Movement, and More: Release Energy to Accelerate Learning taught how to energize or calm students as well as boost attention, learning, and memory through music and movement. Incorporating music with content through songs and chants makes concepts more memorable for the students. Also, certain music can be used to put students in a state of "relaxed alertness," making them more receptive and ready to learn.

During staff in-service trainings this year, teachers will be provided original activities incorporating Kagan structures to implement in their classrooms. They will actively take part in the Kagan structures, execute at least one in their classrooms, and then provide feedback. The feedback will be used to write/create more activities into the curriculum. Our ultimate goal is to bring a Kagan representative to the district to train all of our teachers. We hope their students enjoy the structures as much as we do!

Visit www.kaganonline.com for class listings and prices.

Kagan Contact Information: (for district training)

Nancy Murray, Director

Kagan Professional Development

Call Nancy: 1 (800) 451-8495

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Kagan Summer Academy

2009 Fellowship

Action Plan

July 2009- The Kagan Team attended the 2009 Kagan Academy in Orlando, Florida.

July 2009- The team developed the action plan for implementation.

August 2009- The team distributed a newsletter (THE KAGAN EXPERIENCE) with colleagues. The team shared the first agenda and ideas.

September 2009- The team will meet with the superintendent to share the narrative and other materials from the fellowship.

October 2009- The team will follow the October agenda.

October 2009- The team will visit another elementary school in the district to share their experience and to introduce them to Kagan and their beliefs.

January 2009- The team will follow the January agenda.

March 2009- The team will follow March agenda.

NOUNS Lesson Idea

Grade Level: 2nd

Time Period: One day's lesson (2nd or 3rd day into the noun unit) approx. 45 minutes

Objectives: The students will be able to identify nouns to be a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

Materials:

- chart paper
- squares of white paper
- recording sheet for sentences
- quiz for mastery
- titles in bold and italics are Kagan structures

Procedures:

1. TTW open the lesson by reviewing the previous lesson(s). May be done via a PPT presentation.
2. TTW display a pre-made chart paper poster. There are three columns labels with 'person', 'place', or 'thing' at the top. TSW listen to the book A Mink, A Fink, A Skating Rink: Nouns to the class. TSW periodically tell the teacher nouns they hear. She will record their answers on the chart.
3. TTW pass out several stacks of paper per group of students (4 per group). (The students have previously experienced *Jot Thoughts* and know the procedure.)
4. TTW explain to the students that they are going to 'JOT' as many nouns as they can. She will also remind them to try to avoid repeats and the steps...Say It, Write It, Toss It. TSW have 2-4 minutes. On her signal, they will begin.
5. One time expires, TTW collect any unused pieces of paper. She will then tell the students to arrange their cards into three columns...people, places, and things on their desks. TTW monitor students' work by walking around and observing.
6. TSW pick three of the nouns from the columns they created. TSW write one noun in each box. The challenge...TSW try to use the nouns in one sentence. TSW continue trying to create as many nouns as he/she can until time has expired.
7. TSW share their creations with their group using *Timed Paired Share*.

Lesson Extension:

Once students have been introduced to the concept of proper nouns, they could use the papers created during *Jot Thoughts*. They will use *Hands Up, Pair Up* to find a partner. They will then brainstorm (*Rally Robin*) with their partner proper nouns for the nouns they are holding from Jot Thoughts.



The Kagan Korner

Brandie McNabb

Leah Boulton

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April Smith



Jot This Down! **JOT THOUGHTS** by Kagan

“Hook” your students with this simple and quick strategy

1. Give each group a stack of small paper squares.
2. The Group leader “jots” down a word or phrase about the topic while saying it out loud so that students don’t duplicate.
3. Each student takes a turn, jotting down a thought in an attempt to COVER THE TABLE.
4. When the teacher calls time, the students sort their thoughts into categories.

Watch your students enjoy brainstorming and reviewing concepts!

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

- **Name A Noun**: Students work with their groups to cover the table with nouns.
- **Ways to Make 10**: Student jot ways to make ten using math facts.
- **Tell Me a Story** – Jot down words/phrases from the weekly story – Sort into beginning, middle, and end!



Looking for new ways to engage your students?

So were we! Thankfully, Funds for Teachers gave us the opportunity to learn new strategies to help engage students in the literacy and writing process! After spending three days in a variety of workshops over the summer, we are looking forward to sharing what we learned! We know you will find these strategies useful and your students will find them engaging! The best part: These strategies are easy to implement and do NOT require you to make anything new! We cannot wait to hear how you adapt these strategies to your classroom.