

The Jigsaw

The Jigsaw is a way to get a reading piece understood by a whole group effectively and efficiently. Each adult learner within a team has a piece of the information to be learned by all other learners, and each adult is responsible for teaching their section to the other adult learners on the team. When all the pieces of the article or reading material are put together, the adult learners should have a complete picture of the article's content.

Steps:

1. Divide the reading material into approximately five segments.
2. If needed, make five copies of each segment to be read.
3. Divide adult learners into groups of five (this number corresponds to the number of segments), counting off 1-5 is an effective method. Give group one a segment one to read, give group two segment two, and so on. (Depending on the content and learning goals, all groups may need to read one segment then proceed to their assigned segment. This works well when opening material "sets the foundation" for the other segments.)
4. Assign each number grouping a specific location to meet as a group for discussion after they've completed their assigned reading.
5. Distribute the specific reading piece that corresponds to the group's assigned portion.
6. Instruct them to read the material carefully, taking notes may be helpful.
7. When all members of a group have finished reading their passage, they should dialogue the reading material to gain deep, meaningful understanding of the content so that each member is an "expert" and feels confident of their mastery on their specific reading piece.
8. Re-form into original groups so that one person from group one, one person from group two, and so on are in a group consisting of at least one person for each assigned section of reading.
9. Each member, section expert, of the new group "teaches" the material from his/her reading segment.