

Kagan Strategy: Inside Outside Circle*

Steps for the Strategy

1. Students pair up, then the class forms two concentric circles with Partner A on the inside and Partner B on the outside. Partners face each other.
2. Pose a question and Partner A shares his/her answer with Partner B. Then Partner B shares his/her answer.
3. Direct either the inside circle or the outside circle to rotate either clockwise or counter clockwise.
4. Once the students have rotated they have a new partner and steps 2-3 are repeated.

Management Tips

1. Alternate way for forming circles: Students create one large circle, they pair up, one partner moves to the inside, partners face each other.
2. Stand inside the circle allows better teacher management.
3. Students can demonstrate they are finished discussing by both turning to face the teacher in the center.
4. Questions should not require paper or pencil to answer. Short answer or higher level thinking skills questions should be asked.
5. Provide two different sets of cards which contain the questions (instead of being asked by the teacher)—one set of the inside circle, one set for the outside circle.

Social Skills

1. Proper greeting and farewell comments
2. Giving and accepting praise
3. Giving and accepting constructive criticism
4. Active listening
5. Coaching skills
6. Appropriate noise level

*Based on various materials available from Kagan Publishing.