



Increasing Student Engagement through Cooperative Learning Strategies

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About Ihsan Education



Ihsan Education

Our Vision:

Ihsan Education (™) inspires academic, moral and spiritual excellence to empower students to thrive and contribute to the betterment of humanity in a diverse, complex, and global context.

Our Philosophy:

Ihsan Education employs a moral or values based framework that cultivates the growth of *Ihsan* or beautiful morals which enable students to understand the essence of their faith and how to embody it in a diverse, pluralistic, complex society. The outcome is students who are well rooted in the understanding of their faith and spiritual traditions yet open-minded, compassionate, generous, and collaborative with people of all faiths and backgrounds, in order to be a catalyst for positive change and peace in our world.

Our Services:

Educator Training (Online and In-Person), Consulting and Coaching, Curriculum Development, School Certification, Student Programs

About Presenter

Raghad Ebied

- Bachelor in Arts with a major in psychology, a Bachelor of Education, and training in teaching adults, leadership, and life coaching in Canada.
- Masters in Educational Leadership from the U.K., with a dissertation on case studies and best practices for teacher development programs in the U.K., U.S and the Middle East.
- Training in compassion cultivation and spiritual care at Stanford University in the U.S.
- Islamic Courses in Aqidah, Fiqh, Tafseer, Tajweed, and Islamic History
- Over 10 years' experience in teaching, school administration, coaching, training, consulting, and program development in educational excellence and well-being, leadership development, and diversity management in both public and private schools, universities, government, and non-profit organizations in Canada, the U.S., and the Middle East.
- Recent experiences included developing and delivering training and coaching to Arabic and Islamic Education teachers in the UAE on 21st-century teaching and learning and student engagement



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Please Note:

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Samples from Assignment 2

Great work everyone ma sha Allah!

What is cooperative learning? And why use it?

- “Cooperative learning is an organized and structured way to use small groups to enhance student learning and interdependence.
- Students are given a task or assignment, and they work together to accomplish this task. Each individual has responsibilities and is held accountable for aiding in the completion of the assignment; therefore, success is dependent on the work of everyone in the group.”¹
- The **Benefits of Cooperative learning** are that it is:
 - “fun, so students enjoy it and are more motivated.
 - interactive, so students are engaged, active participants in the learning.
 - allows discussion and critical thinking, so students learn more and remember v learned for a longer period of time.
 - requires students to learn to work together, which is an important skill for their futures.” ¹

¹ <http://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-cooperative-learning-in-the-classroom-strategies-benefits-definition.html>

What Kind of Environment Do We Need?

An Environment that Values Diversity

“Students need to respect and appreciate each other’s viewpoints for it to work. Create a classroom environment that encourages independent thinking. Teach students the value of multiplicity in thought. You may want to give historical or social examples where people working together were able to reach complex solutions.” **Any examples?**

For more tips on leading collaborative learning teams, see:

<http://www.teachthought.com/pedagogy/20-collaborative-learning-tips-and-strategies/>



Strategy 1: Learning or Activity Centers

“Organizing a classroom into activity centers is important because it allows the **teacher to responsively instruct and assist small groups of students** - the most effective classroom organization for teaching and learning.

Activity centers also facilitate the **development of a classroom community that supports all students’ learning**, with each person working together for the success of everyone.

Therefore, an important outcome of activity centers is the development of the values necessary for a **successful classroom community - fairness, harmony, inclusion, and academic excellence.**” ²

² http://manoa.hawaii.edu/coe/crede/wp-content/uploads/Hilberg_et_al_20031.pdf

Goals of Learning/Activity Centers

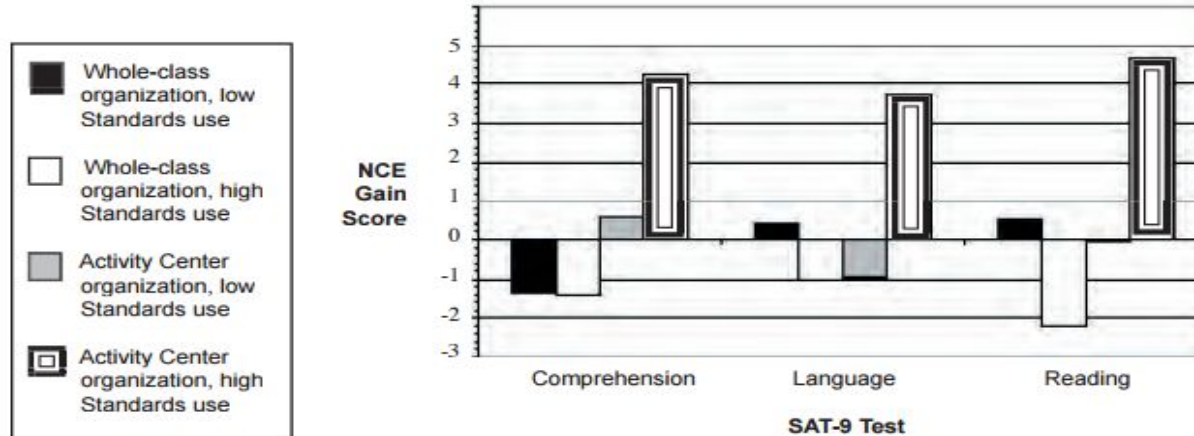
“In classrooms organized into activity centers, the teacher’s role is much more than to merely facilitate student work. The teacher participates with students in **meaningful activities; assesses students’ levels of understanding by observing, listening, and questioning; and provides assistance that is responsive to students’ developmental levels and advances their understanding.**

- **Fairness** is achieved when all students receive the assistance they need for success.
- **Harmony** is evidenced when classrooms support all students’ learning and mutual assistance is valued.
- **Inclusion** means that all students have access to and a voice in social and academic opportunities.
- **Academic excellence** is achieved by linking content standards to activity center tasks and providing the assistance necessary for each student to achieve his or her full potential.”²(
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/coe/crede/wp-content/uploads/Hilberg_et_al_20031.pdf)

Research Evidence

“Analyses found that students in grades 3 to 5 whose teachers used the Five Standards to a high degree and organized their classrooms into activity centers showed significantly greater achievement gains on all SAT-9 tests than students whose teachers did not. In fact, students whose teachers had transformed both pedagogy and organization were the only group to evidence achievement gains; students in all other groups evidenced declines in achievement from the prior year.” 2

Pedagogy, Organization, and Student Achievement



Two Basic Types of Centers

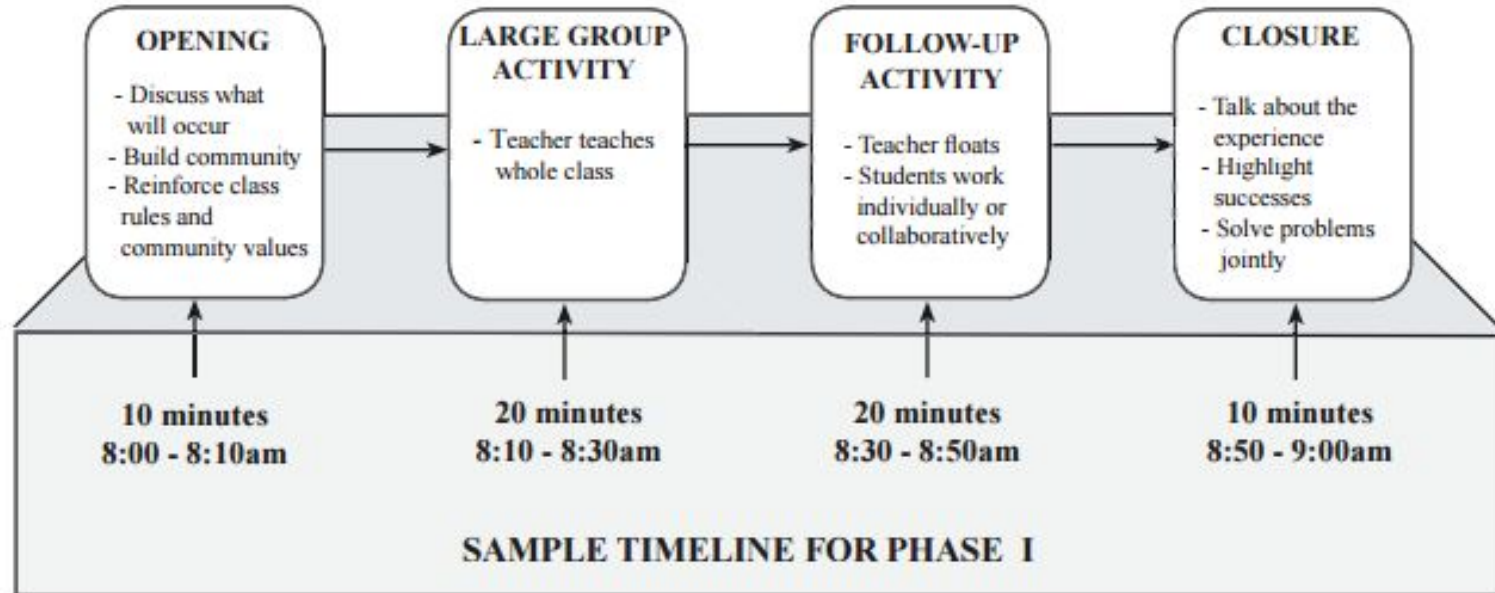
(1) the **teacher-led instructional conversation (IC) center**: the teacher engages in challenging tasks and instructional conversation with three to seven homogeneously-grouped students.

(2) the **independent centers collaboratively led by peers**: students work in heterogeneous groupings on tasks they can be successful at independent of teacher assistance, following directions on a task card or instruction sheet.

It is important to **develop a classroom community that supports student self-management, mutual assistance, and cooperation**. This enables the teacher to provide quality, focused, uninterrupted instruction to students at the IC center. ²

² http://manoa.hawaii.edu/coe/crede/wp-content/uploads/Hilberg_et_al_20031.pdf

Instructional Frame for Setting up Centers



Student Activity Center Log

SAMPLE

Student Activity Center Record Keeping Log

Name: _____

ACTIVITY CENTER	DATE	COMPLETE OR INCOMPLETE	DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DID TODAY	POINTS

Sample of Activities for Centers

- Watch a Video (And Complete Worksheet)
- Respond to a Journal Prompt
- Make a Poster or a Drawing
- Come up with a skit or a commercial
- Perform a Task (For example, planting a seed or performing prayer)
- Listening Center
- Reading Center
- Photo Center
- Discussion Debate Center



For more see **Ideas for Types of Activity Centers (P.58)** and **Ideas for Activities that Require Active Student Participation (P.59)** on

Example of Teaching Quran Using Centers

- 1) **Audio Center** – students listening to reciter and repeating softly after him
- 2) **Group memorization center** - students sit in a circle and take turns reciting one ayah at a time in order
- 3) **Computer Center** – students using quranexplorer.com to complete a guided exercise prepared by teacher or watch a youtube video about a surah (Ex/Nouman Ali Khan Illustrated Tafseer)
- 4) **Fill in the Blanks center** – students given handouts of weekly surah with missing ayahs they have to fill out
- 5) **Tajweed center** – choose a strong reciter from the students to lead and review with this group one-three tajweed rules previously learned that come up in the weekly surah
- 6) **Guided Reading Center** – This is the teacher led group, where teacher works with students on reading strategies and meaning (tafseer)

Strategy 2: Inside Outside Circle

Please see attached Handout.

Example questions to pose:

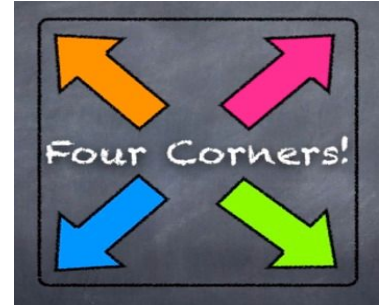
- 1) Why do we pray?
- 2) Why is it important to be honest and truthful?



Strategy 3: Four Corners

Please See Attached Handout.

Example:



A friend at school shares confidential information about you that you asked him/her not to share and is also spreading rumours about you. He/She has not apologized and has not stopped spreading rumours; however, you know that forgiveness is an important characteristic in Islam and want to forgive him/her. You choose to ignore what is happening and forgive him/her and continue being a close friend to them pretending that nothing happened. Do you..... with this?

1-Strongly Agree

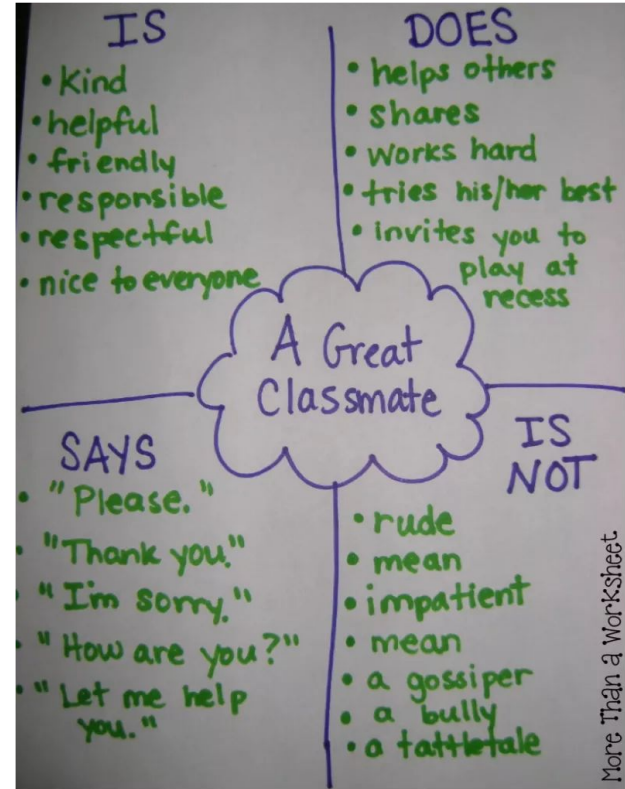
2-Agree

3-Disagree

4-Strongly Disagree

Strategy 4: Graffiti

- Please see attached handout.
- Here is an example of an adaptation of “Graffiti” using an anchor chart:
 - Here are example questions:
 - 1) I love Allah because
 - 2) I love Islam because
 - 3) I love Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) because:
 - 4) A Great Muslim Is/Does/Says/Is Not



Strategy 5: Good Character Bingo

Please see attached handout taken from:

<http://www.morethanaworksheet.com/2012/10/12/freebie-friday-and-good-character-bingo/>

Good Character Bingo

	sharing	respect	kindness	
determination	caring	helping	effort	perseverance
patience	positive attitude		problem solver	fairness
thoughtfulness	effort	helping	caring	responsibility
	kindness	respect	sharing	

Assignment

Create at least 3-4 centers for a lesson/theme/unit/topic in your class using the ideas we reviewed and resources you have, describe the center, and reflect on their impact and any successes or challenges you had when you applied them. This should be 2-4 paragraphs long.

Due Date: Wednesday Feb 8, 2017

Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/zpckqXq3Fu6vaSUP2>

Additional Resources

- www.lhsanEdu.com

Visit our website and Sign up for our newsletter to receive free training videos including “How to Overcome Top 3 Challenges in Education” from Dr. Dilara Sayeed (Doctorate in Education from Harvard), and to also receive articles and updates about future online and LIVE Training.

- <https://www.pinterest.com/explore/cooperative-learning-activities/>
- <https://www.whatihavelearnedteaching.com/five-cooperative-learning-activities-to-do-on-the-first-day-of-school/>
- <http://www.teachthought.com/pedagogy/20-collaborative-learning-tips-and-strategies/>

Thank You

For more information, please feel free to email us at info@ihsanedu.com.



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