



## RoundRobin Variations

RoundRobin is one of the simplest and most commonly used Kagan Structures. In its basic form, teammates take turns talking. RoundRobin is a terrific structure for the teacher to infuse active engagement into just about any part of the lesson. Before the lesson, the teacher may ask, “What do you know about this subject?” In the middle of the lesson, the teacher may state “Summarise an important point.” At the end of the lesson, the teacher may ask, “What is the most important thing you learned?” Every student gets an opportunity to talk in a non-threatening team environment and to learn from teammates’ ideas and opinions. RoundRobin is a powerful structure. But did you know, there are many variations of RoundRobin you can use?

Learn the RoundRobin variations and when to use each, and you will extend the power of an already powerful structure:



### Single RoundRobin:

1. Teacher assigns a topic or question.
2. In teams, students respond orally each taking a single turn at responding.

**Use for: Single RoundRobin** is used primarily to ensure that each teammate gets a turn to share. It may be used for simple teambuilding content such as “What did you do that was fun over the weekend?” or it may be academic content such as “How do you think the story will end?”

A **Single RoundRobin** is the best for sharing student work when teammates may have a different amount of material to cover such as a written student story or poem.



### Timed RoundRobin:

1. Teacher assigns a topic or question and announces a time limit (e.g. 1 minute each).
2. In teams, students respond orally each taking a single turn at responding for the allotted time.

**Use for: Timed RoundRobin** ensures equal participation. Each student is allotted the same predetermined amount of time. It is best used when there is a lengthy response such as, “Describe your hypothesis and how you plan to test it.” It is great for current events, book reports, and other reports because it equalises teammate share time. **Timed RoundRobin** is helpful for management since all teams finish at the same time.



### Continuous RoundRobin:

1. Teacher assigns a topic or question with multiple possible responses.
2. In teams, students respond orally each taking a turn contributing one idea.
3. After all teammates have responded, students respond again contributing another idea. **Continuous RoundRobin** resumes for multiple turns.

**Use for: Continuous RoundRobin** is useful when there are many items and the students are generating an oral list. “Name prime numbers.” “What are all the possible causes (or consequences) of that historical event?”



### **AllWrite RoundRobin:**

1. Teacher assigns a topic or question with multiple possible responses.
2. In teams, students respond orally each taking a turn contributing one idea.
3. All teammates record the shared idea on their own papers.

**Use for: AllWrite RoundRobin** results in a written record for each student. For example, if the students are generating a list, each student has their own paper and pencil and as they name each item, each student writes it down. Students can use their lists for later independent work. The difference between **AllWrite RoundRobin** and **RoundTable Consensus** is that with **AllWrite RoundRobin** each student writes on her/his own paper whereas in **RoundTable Consensus** there is one paper and pencil passed around the group and each student in turn records an idea once the team has reached consensus.

### **Teacher Tip:**

Here's an easy way to remember what a **RoundRobin** is:

Break the word down into the two shorter words.

- Round – The action goes aROUND the team table.
- Robin – A songbird.

The singing (talking) goes around the team table. RoundRobin.

### **Management Tips:**

**Time It:** For Timed RoundRobin, display the time remaining for each student using **Timer Tools**. **Select**

**Who Starts:** Have students number off in their teams. Spin a **Student Selector** spinner or use **Selector**

**Tools** to pick the student who starts. **Stand Up:** Have the student whose turn it is stand up. This gives students and the teacher a visual. For a Single RoundRobin, the teacher knows all students are done when the team is seated. **Simultaneous RoundRobin:** Avoid this structure whenever possible (Get it?).

### **Social Skills:**

**Patience:** Practice patience and impulse control so the speaker isn't interrupted during his/her turn. **Praise**

**Passport:** Promote a positive team atmosphere by having students quickly praise the prior speaker.

**Paraphrase Passport:** Promote active listening by having students paraphrase the prior speaker. **Attentive**

**Listening:** Demonstrate eye contact; nodding; um hums; polite, genuine interest. **Taking Turns:** Each

teammate gets a turn. **Contributing Ideas:** Every teammate is expected to contribute. **Respecting**

**Differences:** Students are free to express differing opinions

### **Differentiated Instruction:**

**Right to Pass:** Some students may have more ideas to contribute than others. During Continuous

RoundRobin, give students the right to pass only if they are out of ideas. **Different Questions:** Different

teams can have different questions to discuss. **Questions When Done:** If using Timed RoundRobin, a

student may not have enough to share to fill his/her time slot. When the student is done, teammates may ask him/her questions until his/her time is over.

**Ideas for Class: Mathematics:** Definition of spatial terms, Define geometry terms, List odd numbers, Estimate the likelihood of an event, Make an inference from a graph, Describe a real-world application, Skip counting, Name things with right angles in the room, Share your word problem, Ways to build 12 Answer to the next problem, Describe one way to solve the problem, Next item in the pattern

**Science:** Jobs scientists have, Describe your hypothesis, Properties of energy, A principle of motion, An observation from the experiment, Ideas to save endangered species, Natural disasters, Define scientific terms, Read your conclusions, Things that float; things that sink, List or describe elements, Things that are in motion, Sources of energy, One use of electricity, Things that stick to a magnet, Examples of a category (ex: mammals), One difference between plant and animal cells.

**English:** Evaluate a book, Create a topic sentence for a paragraph, RoundRobin Read – take turns reading story or book, Read your poem, Read your letter, Read your descriptive story, Read your persuasive paragraph, Predict what the book will be about, List character trait adjectives, State possible morals to the story, List ideas to write about, Provide feedback to a written piece, Define literary terms, Define story elements

**History:** List a cause or effect, Give opinion about a current event, Give opinion about \_\_\_\_\_ Describe one similarity or difference in the culture, Describe one event in the time period, Describe one prominent individual in the movement.

**Geography:** Estimate the distance, Offer one solution to pollution, Define geography terms, RoundRobin Read – take turns reading chapter or document

**Teambuilding:** What are you most proud of? What did you do this weekend? Describe your favourite hobby? What did you do over the holiday break? What is the scariest thing you've experienced? Where would you like to go on holiday? What is your favourite meal? If you could be a professional athlete, what would be the sport?