



Teammates Consult

(Mathematicians Consult)

Teammates Consult

Teammates consult is one of my favourite structures for problem solving. All students are given a copy of the same problem-solving worksheet. As they work through the problems one by one, students are encouraged to discuss methods and share strategies. However, all students are held accountable for their own answers. The power of this structure lies in the fact that after team discussion each student must individually explain the steps of the solution in writing. Not only does this written explanation serve as a deterrent to 'free-riders', the written response provides insight into a student's understanding of the problem. This structure is adaptable to any subject, but when I use it in Numeracy/Maths I refer to it as "Mathematicians Consult". As the steps are somewhat involved at first, until the students are used to the structure I usually keep the directions on the OHP or on a poster.

Pencil Cups –Is a good way to remind the students when and when not to be talking.

Monitor Carefully _ Teammate's consult has many steps, and students will tend to break the rules frequently until they are trained in this structure. They need lots of reminders that they are not to be talking when they are writing.

(This ensures that students participate in the discussion since they know they will not have help later, if one student will not comply with the rules have them form an island with their desks and have them finish independently- no fun at all! Although this structure needs careful monitoring it is so powerful when used properly I find the benefits far

outweigh the drawbacks.

Challenging Problems Only- Teammates consult is best used with challenging problems and activities that require written responses, otherwise you just get copying. As the students become more familiar with this structure very demanding multi-step problems can be completed successfully.

For Teams/ G&T and early finishers **create your own problem** solving worksheets by writing word problems in boxes on a blank master.

Good luck using this structure!

Gavin



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Directions

1. Everyone places pencils in the team cup and calculators in the centre of the team, (four pencils in the cup is a reminder that talking is allowed. WHEN THE CUP IS EMPTY THERE SHOULD BE NO TALKING!) A leader is selected.
2. Leader reads through the first problem.
3. Everyone discusses strategies for solving the problem.
4. Leader asks, “ Does everyone understand how to solve the problem?”
5. If anyone answers “ No,” continue the Discussion/coaching.
6. When everyone is ready, teammates use their calculators to solve the problem. Then they write their own answer and explanation.
NO TALKING! (Everyone does not have to write the same answer.)
7. The person on the left becomes the becomes new leader to lead the discussion for the next problem.

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Mathematicians Consult

Pet Shop Problem Solving

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

1. Lauren and Michael work at Pet Paradise during the summer. One of Lauren's jobs is to keep the aquarium filled. The aquarium contains 18.7 litres of water. If she adds 2.9 litres, how many litres will there be in the aquarium in all?

Answer: _____

Explanation : _____

2. Michael feeds the dogs each morning. This morning, the store owner gave him two bags of dog food – a full 5 KG bag and one weighing only 3.4 KG. Michael was told to give each of the 10 dogs exactly the same amount of dog food. How much did he measure out for each dog?

Answer: _____

Explanation : _____

3. Pet Paradise sells bird seed for £ 1.20 a KG. Lauren poured three large scoops for a customer and found that it weighed 3 KG. The same customer also bought a bird cage for £ 15.95. How much did the customer owe altogether?

Answer: _____

Explanation : _____

4. Michael weighed each of Pet Paradise's four kittens. The first weighed 2.75 Kg, the second weighed 2.50 Kg, the third weighed a whopping 4.55 Kg and the last one only weighed 2.20 Kg. What was the total weight of the Kittens at Pet Paradise?

Answer: _____

Explanation : _____

