

Sample Professional Learning Activities

a) **Think-Pair- Share**

Think-Pair-Share is a cooperative learning strategy that can promote and support higher-level thinking. The leader asks participants to think about a specific topic, then pair up with another participant in order to discuss their thinking and after that, to share their thinking with the larger group.

b. **Brainstorming, Post-It Pile Up or Sticky Note Sort**

This cooperative learning activity provides an alternative to traditional group brainstorming. Each individual is given a number of sticky notes (post-its) upon which they record desired information (e.g., knowledge, attitudes or skills). The sticky notes are then read out to a small group. Any sticky notes that contain similar information are piled one on top of the other.

c. **Say Something**

“Say Something” (Beers, 2003) offers opportunities for participants to engage in accountable talk and deepen their understanding through predicting, questioning, inferring, responding and making connections.

- a. Direct participants to find a partner and number themselves One and Two.
- b. Read or provide an interesting, thought-provoking text that has been chunked into manageable sections of text.
- c. Model reading the first chunk of text and responding to the text by saying something about what was read. This “something” could be a key idea, a connection, a question or simply a brief statement about the ideas presented in the text.
- d. Encourage participants to read each chunk of text and to “say something” to their partners.
- e. Continue reading and “saying something” until the entire selection of text has been read and discussed by the partners.
- f. Provide time for each member of the larger group to collectively share their insights or to answer a synthesizing question about the text.

d. **3-2-1**

This strategy helps participants summarize key information in six brief segments such as: 3 things I learned ... 2 connections that I made 1 question I have. Cheers, Mirrors and Fears is a modification of this activity such that participants record the aspects they like.... the aspects they find similar....the aspects that trouble them...

e. **Round Robin in Triads**

Working in groups of three, participants each take a turn sharing their ideas in their group, one at a time, going in one direction, in a circle. Participants have a right to pass (to not share).