

Round Table Write-Up



Brief Summary

Students are arranged in small groups and given a question or problem. Students take turns writing one response or one step for solving the problem on the group paper. Then they pass the paper clockwise for the next student to contribute. Students continue to pass the paper around the group until the teacher stops the activity or until the group runs out of answers.

Another variation can include using color coding for each student's responses. For example, in a group of four, each student uses a different color marker and writes their name in that color on the back of the paper. At the end of the activity, the teacher will collect the papers and be able to identify the responses each student contributed based on the colors used. This will help to determine each student's level of understanding.

Example Use in STEM EDA

At the beginning of Step 2 in the Engineering Design Process, students are asked to identify topics and areas of research for the problem posed in each module. This would be a great opportunity to facilitate a round table write-up within each team.

Near the end of Step 2 in Discover Volcanoes, students are asked to identify some aspects found in the article(s) that they may incorporate into the design of a system to keep villagers safe during a volcano eruption. A round table write-up could be used to complete this task or one similar.

Ideas on Implementation

1. If a particular module requires students to work in pairs, combine teams to form a group of four to six students for the round table write-up.
2. Monitor each of the learning groups. Utilize the questions and prompts throughout the STEM EDA module to guide student contributions.
3. Provide ample time for each student in the group to contribute to the round table write-up several times. Setting a classroom timer that can be displayed in the room is helpful for students to manage their time.