

BUZZ GROUP METHODOLOGY: SETTING THE HIVE IN YOUR CLASSROOM

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- Small, intense discussions responding to a specific question or addressing certain content
- Buzz groups, aptly named, mimic the activity of a beehive as the classroom is filled with murmurs of discussion

What is Buzz Group Methodology?

- Buzz groups have shown to be an effective form of cooperative learning (Jackson & Prosser, 1989)
- A good precursor for a larger class discussion (Barkley, et al, 2014)
- Fosters peer learning (Petonito, 1991)
- Helps with the development of problem solving in participants (Moss & McMillen, 1980)

What Makes Buzz Group Methodology Work?

- Can be an effective use of time and bring a renewed focus to listening and note taking (Atkins, et al., 2002)
- Enhances peer learning and discussion of the linkage to other content
- Changes work in groups
- Establishes trust within the classroom

What Makes Buzz Group Methodology Work?

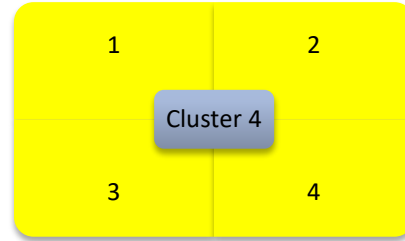
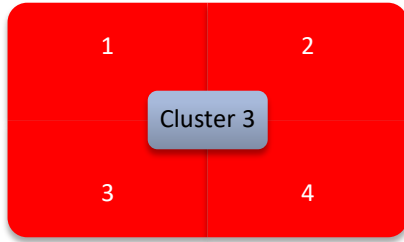
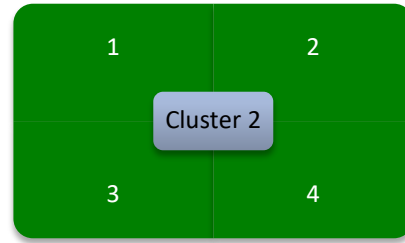
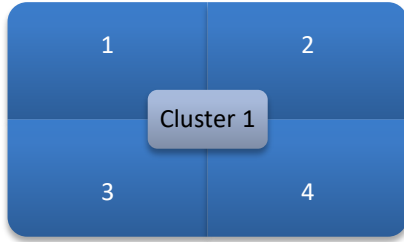
- Evaluate your learning objectives
- Focus on the content that you want students to truly master
- Will want to pair with lecture, simulation, “one-minute writing”, etc.
- Have students divide into groups of 3-4
- Give each group a topic or subject to discuss/breakdown and give parameters of time, goal, and space (and practicality)
- Share with the class in various formats/combine with other instructional methods

Application of Buzz Group Methodology

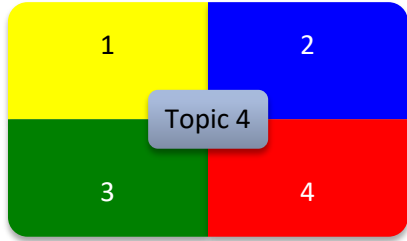
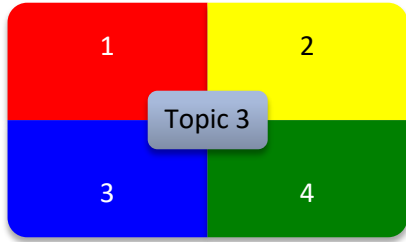
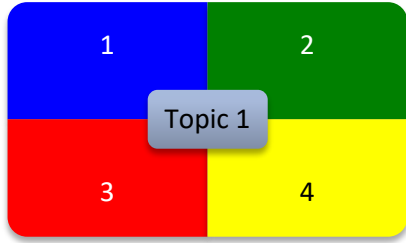
Lesson: Levels of Communication (in an Interpersonal Skills for Leadership Course)

- Best used for content with multiple parts
- Combined with Simulation & Jigsaw Methods

How-To: An Example



THE CLASSROOM



THE BUZZ GROUP CLASSROOM

- “Makes me more confident in the material...”
- “...Class is like a community”
- “...Breaks the routine that happens in class”
- “Liked being the expert and made me want to dig deeper...”
- “Good to hear from classmates who don’t always speak up...”
- “Makes participating easy...I’m not as stressed out to speak in front of others”

Student Feedback

- Enhances content effectiveness
- Effective classroom management
- Planning/utilizing buzz group methodology
- Classroom motivation/ enhanced environment
- Examine how we continue to build trust

An instructor can reflect on the idea that opportunities and experiences shape cognition, development, and leadership motivation (Allen & Wergin, 2008)

Recommendations



QUESTIONS?

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