

Instructional Activity: Pass the Plate

Instructional Goals:

- Formulate
- Draw conclusions
- Contrast
- Problem Solve

Description:

This activity helps students recall and identify different answers or examples for specific questions. Students work in groups of 3 or 4 and compete as a team to find unique examples that answer the question that no other team thought of. This activity activates prior knowledge, helps students identify links between concepts, inspires creativity, and novel thinking.

How to incorporate it in the classroom:

1. Students sit in groups of 3 or 4 with a paper plate and a different color pen for each student.
2. Teacher poses a question that has multiple answers, or specifies a concept that can be described with multiple examples.
3. Teacher sets a time limit.
4. 1st student in each group writes one answer on the plate. They then pass the plate to the next student to write another answer and so on.
5. No student may pass their turn, however, if they need help, another team member can help them come up with an answer.
6. At the end of the time limit, each team shares their answers. If another team had the same answer written down, all the teams with that answer must cross it out.
7. The team with the most answers left on their plate wins!

Example:

Math:

- Get creative. Come up with as many equivalent expressions of the number 4 that you can think of.
- Solve the following equation using as many methods as possible.
- Using exactly 3 terms, factor the following number as many ways as possible.
- Using the properties of logarithms, break up $\log 900$ as many ways as you can.