

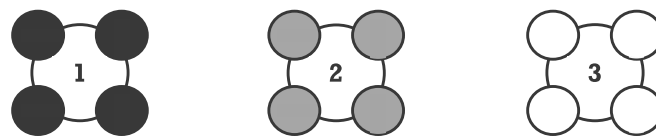
Cross-over or jigsaw

How?

Divide your lesson material into three chunks. Then split your students into three **home groups**, numbered 1, 2, and 3 in Figure 1. (Groups should have no more than six students, so if your class has more than 18 students [3 groups × 6 students], create smaller groups called 1a, 1b, 2a, etc.)

Each group is responsible for learning one of the three chunks of material – and for teaching that material to students from the other home groups. That material could be reading, podcasts, videos, and so on. Ideally, students would have read/listened to/watched the material before class.

Figure 1:
Home groups



In class, give each home group time to work together to share understanding of the material and prepare to explain it to students who are unfamiliar with it. At the end of the allotted time, students cross over into **learning groups**. Each group comprises one member from all the home groups (Figure 2).

Figure 2:
Learning groups



Students from each home group now have an equal amount of time to teach their material to their learn group. Remember to keep time and tell students when to switch to the next person. Circulate the room to check on understanding. At the end, you can review further or clarify misconceptions with the whole group.

When?

- Jigsaws/Cross-overs may take 45–60 minutes. Think carefully about how much material they will need to digest, how much time they'll need to prepare in their home groups and present in their learning groups. (Bear in mind that most of us tend to UNDERestimate the time needed.)
- This activity also works for debriefing syndicates and other group-work activities.

Why?

- Jigsaws/Cross-overs require ALL students to play the role of rapporteur, rather than having one spokesperson, so engagement levels are typically higher.

NOTE: You have to do a little doubling-up if the number of students isn't divisible by three. Plan this in advance of the session so that you are prepared.

Sources: Gibbs, G. (1995). *Discussion with more students*. Oxford Centre for Staff Development.
Vaughn, M. (n.d.). *Jigsaw*. Handout for faculty at Elon University, Elon, NC.