

Instructional Strategies: Cooperative Learning, Summarizing

Activity: Inside-Outside Circle

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About the Inside-Outside Circle

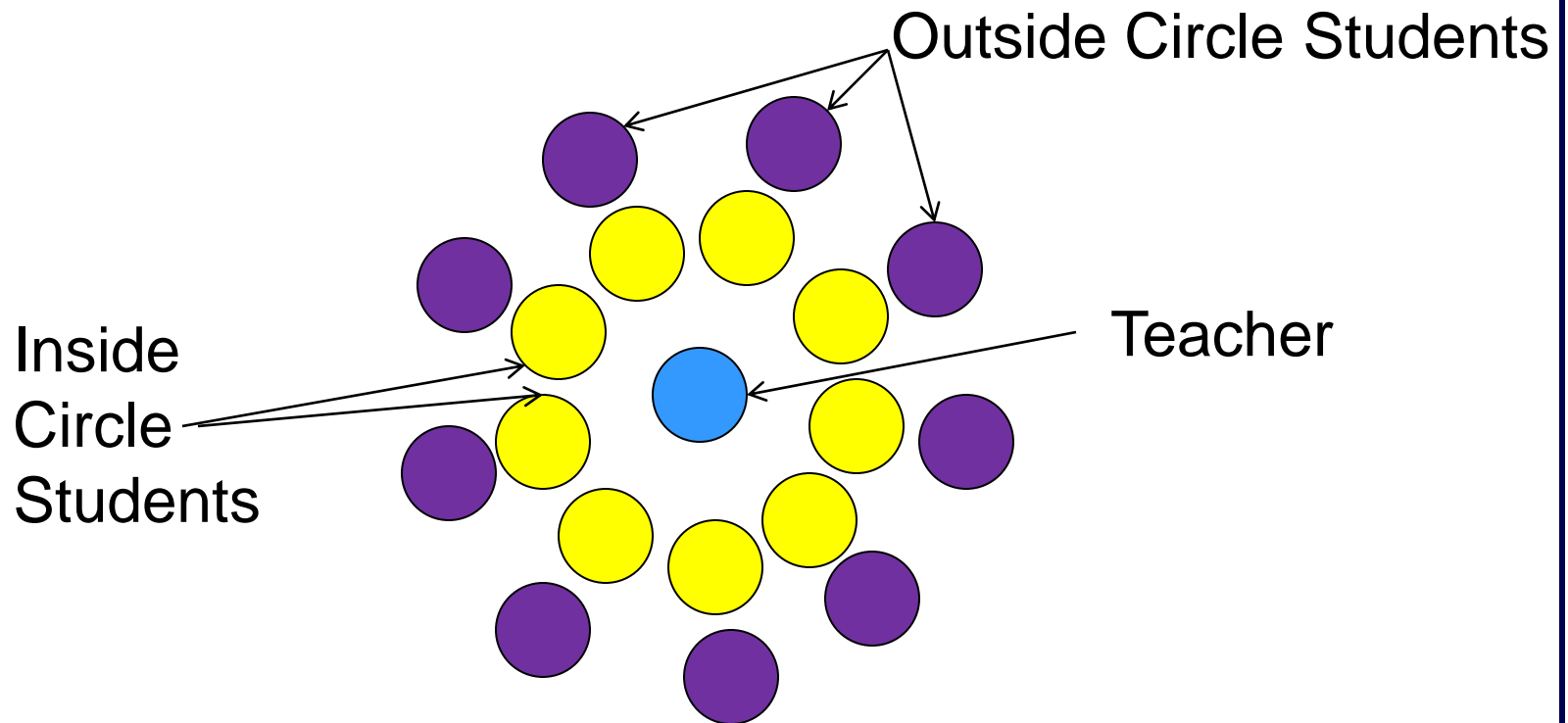
The Inside-Outside Circle (Kagan, 1994) is a technique in which students move around and interact with each other. It can be used as a cooperative strategy and a summarizing strategy. Here's how it works:

1. Students divide into two groups, usually by numbering off.
2. One group forms a circle and turns around to face outward.
3. The other group of students creates an outside circle by facing a peer from the inner circle.
4. The teacher provides prompts or discussion topics. (If the teacher stands in the center, he or she can monitor student responses.)
5. After allowing time for discussion, the teacher has the students in the outside circle move one or more peers to their right or left, therefore greeting a new partner.
6. Steps 4 and 5 are repeated with the new set of partners until time or questions are exhausted.

References

- Kagan, S. (1994) *Kagan Cooperative Learning*. San Clemente, CA: Kagan Publishing.
- wvde.state.wv.us/strategybank/Inside-OutsideCircle.html
- www.ohiorc.org/adlit/InPerspective/Issue/2005-11/Article/vignette.aspx

Inside-Outside Circle



Success Story

“Just sending a quick note to let you know that the Inside-Outside Circle worked like a charm! I used it in both of my world history classes to review for the semester benchmark test. Some of my students were in after school for tutorials and were able to recall some of the information because they remembered who they were talking to in the circle about the question!”

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