Teammates Consult

Purposes

- To structure the learning experience so all learners participate
- To promote development of communication skills
- To cause students to think before they "fill in the blanks"

Process

The teacher selects or prepares a set of questions that the students are to work with collaboratively to find the answer. The complexity of the information and the level of understanding required by the question determines the level of difficulty of the task. At no time during this process are students both talking and writing.

- Students work in teams of three to five.
- All students put their pencils or pens in the center of their team's work space. Providing a pencil holder, such as a can or beaker, formalizes this step.
- A student reads the first question.
- Student teams seek the answer -- from text material, notes, and discussion.
- The student sitting to the left of the reader checks to see that all the group members understand and agree with the answer.
- WHEN THERE IS AGREEMENT, all students pick up their own pencils or pens and write the answer in their own words on their own papers.
- When the students are finished recording their answers, the writing implements are returned to the container in the middle of the work space.
- Groups then move on to the next question and repeat the process.
- Students take turns reading the questions.

Remember!

All writing implements are in the container while discussion is ongoing! This is a great way to keep students from just "filling in the blanks" based on a brief look at a text or on what someone else said. You may want to give each group red, yellow and green "signal" cups or cards so that they can let you know when they are functioning smoothly (green), struggling (yellow) or stuck (red).