Engagement is the key to a successful classroom. One of the most successful programs that promote student engagement is “Kagan Cooperative Learning.” Hundreds of studies support the fact that cooperative learning boosts achievement more than traditional methods. Several Kagan “structures” are easy to implement and fit almost any content area. These are the strategies I would like to focus on in this paper. The information presented are strategies that come from the Kagan training manuel.

**Find Someone Who**

This structure is great for a first day ice breaker, multiple choice, and supporting and sharing an opinion. To implement this structure students simply circulate through the classroom forming and reforming pairs trying to “find someone who” knows the answer. Then they become “someone who knows.” Pairs check and initial the answer. They agree with or they complete an answer that is not completed. This structure is great way for students to be engaged with one another.

**Inside-Outside Circle**

Great structure for reviewing facts for a test. Students rotate in a concentric circle to face new partners for sharing, quizzing or problem solving. Teacher stands in the middle to facilitate the circle. Can be used for paired reading as well. Easy to implement gets students out of their seat and actively engaged with one another.

**Quiz-Quiz Trade**

This is the most popular and easy to use structure. Students quiz a partner, get quizzed by a partner, and then repeat process with a new partner. This structure is useful in all content areas. It can be used to review facts, vocabulary, and test questions. Students get the opportunity to coach a struggling student to the correct answer and be exposed to many facts in a very short period of time, which increase student learning and engagement. Students get to practice greeting and parting procedures.

**Rally Coach**

This structure is also very easily implemented with very little prep time for the teacher. The student partners take turns, one solving a problem while the other coaches. Rally coach may be used with worksheet problems, oral problems provided by the teacher, and with manipulatives. After solving their problems, pairs can check their answers with other pairs in their team. Very useful for math worksheet, and language arts skills pages. The opportunity students have explaining their answer to their partner is priceless.

**Jot Thoughts**

Super structure for spring boarding ideas or checking knowledge. Teammates “cover the table” with ideas they have on the presented topic. Post -its are the only supply needed for this activity. Students are inspired to generate ideas because they want to be the first in the group to cover their desk/table. This can be a great way check comprehension throughout a teaching unit or at the end of the unit before an assessment. This involves movement and students are self-driven to cover their area.

Kagan Structures boosts academic achievement, help close the academic achievement gap, and contributes to cognitive development and higher-level thinking.

I have only selected a few structures from the Kagan brand, there are many more that make student learning and lifts the level of engagement.