

THE TECHNIQUE OF "Aronson Puzzle"

The technique allows us to work on collaboration and reinforce positive attitudes among students.

Who is Elliott Aronson?

Elliot Aronson, born in 1932, is an American psychologist, writer and university professor known for his theories on cognitive dissonance and for the invention of the Jigsaw Classroom.

• What is Aronson's puzzle technique?

It is a cooperative teaching technique that facilitates learning while promoting integration, teamwork and reducing prejudice and hostility. It can be used in students of different ages from kindergarten to high school, and in different fields.

The "puzzle class" is structured to follow three main steps, described below.

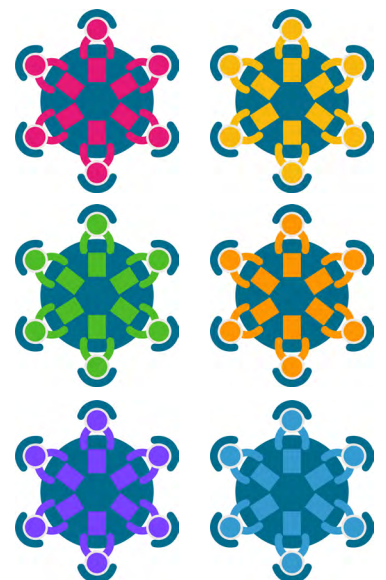
"INDIVIDUAL" PHASE:

- As a first step, each member of the groups (consisting of 4 to 6 students) works individually a part of the material previously divided by the teacher.
- **In our example, it will be about giving each student in the group the testimonies of the leaders of the same religion. So each student around the table will study a different religion.**

EXPERT PHASE:

- Secondly, each of the students leaves their group to meet, in a new working group, the students with the same corpus of information as them. They form a group of experts to exchange and synthesize this information.
- **In our example, students who have studied the same religion will find themselves together.**

This step in the process is particularly important as it provides the least experienced students with the opportunity to build on their more experienced peers to best analyze the body of information that has been assigned to them. "Expert" groups give all students an opportunity to get a clear idea of how to present the material



to their classmates, without taking into account previous inequities in skills or preparation.

PUZZLE PHASE:

- Finally, students return to their home groups and expose the material on which they have become “experts” to their classmates. Thus, each group accesses the entire content by sharing the knowledge of the different members, in the manner of a puzzle.
- To structure positive interdependence, the teacher can prepare a complete synthesis medium covering the entire content or group presentations that require the articulation of the different sub-parts between them, by the students. It is important that students integrate information and develop a holistic view of the lesson.



LONG STORY SHORT...

- **The «puzzle class» is an approach that requires rigour in the smooth running of the stages. So it is better to anticipate the creation of groups, the layout of the class and the preparation of the material upstream so as not to waste time during the course.**
- **The main difficulty lies in the ability of students to summarize and convey the main ideas of the contents they must study. Explaining and teaching is not simple.**
- **En plus d'acquérir de nouvelles connaissances et compétences, la « classe puzzle » crée souvent un tissu relationnel précieux pour les élèves.**

