T.A.P.S.

Total group, Alone, Partners, Small group

In any unit of study, some time must be spent in each of the areas that are defined by the term TAPS:

- ✓ **(T) Total group –** There may be information and new skills that need to be shared or demonstrated to the whole class (modeled, guided practice, independent practice).
- ✓ **(A) Alone –** Students sometimes need to practice by working alone, which is how they perform or standardized tests. In life, we often work and think independently of others.
- ✓ (P) Partners Partnering gives students a process: a narrow audience with whom to share ideas, discusses new information, or process learning. Random partners, or teacher-constructed pairs can accomplish this.
- ✓ **(S) Small group** Groups of three or four students may be constructed for a variety or purposes. IN any group larger than three or four, some students may be off-task or lack real commitment to the goal.

Applications of TAPS to the Learning Process

Total	Pre-assessment
Whole class instruction	Presenting new information
All students doing the same thing	Modeling new skills
	Guest speaker
	Viewing a video/podcast
	Using a jigsaw strategy
	Textbook assignments
Alone	Pre-assessment
All students working alone may have a variety of	Journal entry
tasks based on interest or readiness	Portfolio assessing
	Self-assessment
	Independent study
	Interactive Notetaking
	Reflection
Paired	Brainstorming
All students have a partner	Checking homework
Random selection (card, color, etc.)	Checking for understanding
Teacher selection	Processing information
Task or interest orientation	Peer editing
	Peer evaluation
	Researching
	Interest in similar topic
	Planning for homework
Small Group	Problem solving
Homogeneous for skill development	Group investigations
Heterogeneous for cooperative groups	Learning centers
Random or structured by teacher or students	Carousel brainstorming

NOTE: In a 4 x 4 block schedule, 3 of the 4 structures would be used in the lesson (in a purposeful order).