

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