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## Partner and Small Group Selection

Choosing partners or small groups for these activities is very important. Putting students together that would not normally associate with each other is a great way for them to get to know the other members of their class. Be sure to use a selection method that will combine students in a non-biased manner.

This method is sure to integrate your student groups and will let them have a little fun at the same time. Have the class line up according to any of these parameters:

1. *Alphabetical by last name*
2. *Alphabetical by first name*
3. *Birth date*
4. *Height*
5. *Alphabetical by the name of the street on which they live*
6. *Numerical order by street address*
7. *Numerical order by last four digits of phone number*
8. *Numbers drawn from a hat*

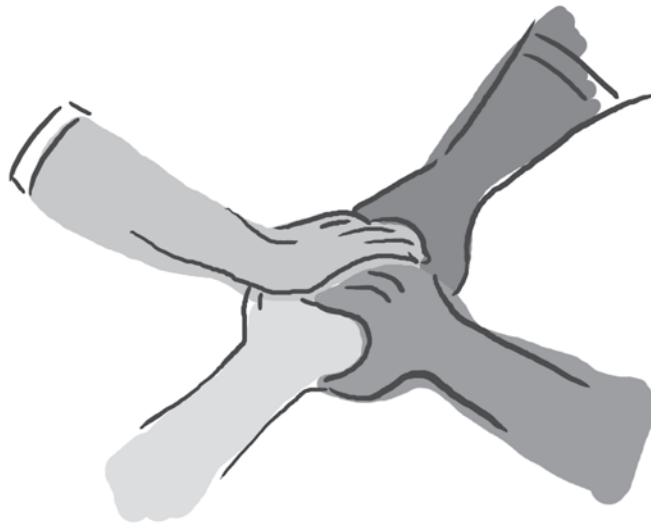
Feel free to choose your own criteria, but keep in mind that separating students by reasons such as gender or ethnicity could have a negative impact on the groups and should be avoided.

After the students are lined up according to the selected criteria, have each student count off in the number of desired groups. For example, if you would like the class to be divided into five groups, the first student in the row would say "One" aloud, followed by the second student with "Two," etc. After the fifth student says "Five," the counting starts over again with the next student saying "One." Continue counting until all students have a number. Students with the same number will make up a group.

Having the students discover their group members can be an ice-breaking activity in itself! For example, if you choose to divide the class based on birth dates, the students need to communicate with each other in order to find classmates with birthdays in the same month, and then arrange themselves in the correct order by the specific day before they count off into groups. This allows the students to get to know a little more about each other right from the start!



# Games to Get Them Going



These quick and easy activities are sure to get your class excited about working together. Many of the games in this section will have your students up and moving around, while others provide them with a fun way to work while at their desks.

In many cases, it will be beneficial to the students to practice with the class as a whole before carrying out the activity. Make sure they feel comfortable with each activity to maximize its educational value.

## Last One Standing

**MATERIALS:** Game Grid (page 43)  
Paper clips, buttons, coins, or candies

### DIRECTIONS:

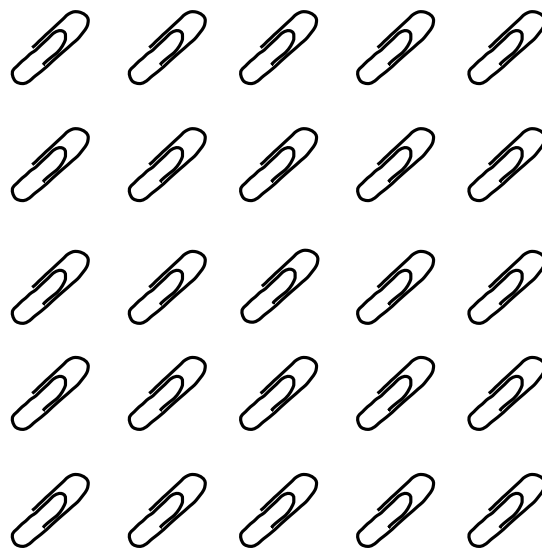
Divide the class into pairs, and provide each pair with a copy of the Game Grid and 25 paper clips, candies, or other small objects. Have the students arrange the paper clips on the Game Grid, as shown to the right.

The first player now removes either one or two paper clips from the grid. The goal of the game is to be the person who takes the last remaining paper clip, so the students must decide on the best number of paper clips to pick up on each turn.

After the first player chooses either one or two paper clips, the second player then selects one or two paper clips. The game

continues until one paper clip is left – the person who picks it up on their turn is the winner!

To make the directions easy for the students to understand, begin by drawing the Game Grid on the chalkboard or overhead. Choose one student with whom to play and walk through the game while the class watches.



## The Gigglemaster

**MATERIALS:** None

### DIRECTIONS:

Divide the class into pairs. Each student sits facing his or her partner. The goal of the game is for the students to try to make their partners laugh. This can be done by making funny faces or telling a joke, but the students cannot touch each other. The student that laughs is eliminated from the game.



The student from each pair that did not laugh is partnered with another student remaining in the game. Once again, each student's goal is to make his or her partner laugh. This continues until only one student remains, and this student is deemed "The Gigglemaster"!

