**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**

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| --- | --- |
| **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).**