Theory Viewbook Item #8

Strategies for Increased Opportunity for Meaning Interaction

1. Think Pair Share: The teacher poses a question, the students think for a moment about their individual answers. Students are given time to divulge their answer with a partner before having to share with the entire class.
2. Small group work: Students are given an assignment and asked to complete it within a group setting. Students are allowed to assist each other by both answering and asking questions within the group.
3. Student/Teacher conferences over assignments: Student and teaching is able to address specific and recurring mistakes within specific assignments. This helps both the teacher and the student to be understood more fully by the other.
4. Numbered Heads: The students are numbered off and put in groups based on their number. They are also given a color group. They first go to their color groups (or master groups) to discuss a part of the lesson for the day. They are then put into their number groups and told to share with their group what they learned about their section of the lesson. This gives each student the opportunity to master a part of the lesson by teaching it to other students.
5. Short Story: The students are placed in a circle around the room and asked to create a short story by inserting their own phrase. For example, the first student could say, “I went to the park yesterday…” and the second student would add, “…and I saw a cat chasing a bird.” The students get to create their own short story as a class, while interacting and practicing their speech and fluency.
6. Of course, there are many fun games that the students can work together and learn together while playing: Pictionary, Charades, Catch Phrase, and so on. a