

# HpO Gizmos: Jigsaw Process

A **Jigsaw process** is an effective way to share a number of points of view prior to discussing or reviewing a policy or to 'unpack' a new document. It is also a good way to share a number of articles or make sense of a large document and make connections to your own beliefs and experiences. The process also ensures everyone contributes, as everyone has an active teaching role as well as being a learner role in the process. The process needs 60 to 90 minutes but can be spread over a couple of meetings or use pre-reading time. One strategy is to assign the text and step 1 prior to meeting.

**PROCESS:** The process usually works best with 3 - 6 articles but this depends on the numbers in the group, the length of the articles and time available.

1. **Individuals:** Each person has a copy of one article as personal reading, equal numbers of people are given each article. Individuals need to read the article and be prepared to discuss it. *Hints: Colour code / number articles for easy identification. Provide focus questions for readers:*
  - What would this mean for practice? For professional development? Performance management?
  - What pedagogical practices would be in use? Roles of teachers and learners? Assessment practices?
2. **Form like groups** [people who have read the same article/page]. This is normally a 20-30 minute discussion to reach common understanding and clarify the main issues/themes. All group members will have a role to 'teach' in a new group in Step 3, so they need to ensure they develop clear understandings to be an 'instant expert'. *Hint: Provide focus questions*
3. **Form mixed groups** [one member for each article/page in each group]. Group members take turns to share their understanding of the article they have read with the group. This group may then discuss the articles or discuss how they link together or relate to a topic being considered. 30 minutes.
4. **Whole group** debrief and feedback if time and circumstances enable this. 30 mins.

## APPLICATION:

- To review or unpack a policy document with staff or Governing Council members
- To share a number of readings in a group on a related topic or sharing research
- To share a class assignment with each person presenting their work in step 3

## ADAPTATIONS:

The jigsaw as a reading process is more effective with older students but it can be used as an **oral process** with younger learners. The jigsaw process also works well as a discussion process for cross age tutoring or buddy classes.

For instance in an SRC meeting appoint older students to lead groups to discuss the topic under investigation, reach consensus as a group and report back to the whole. This develops greater engagement, mentors younger students and builds relationships.

