Classroom Exercise: "Orchestrating the Ensemble"

Objective:
To help students or researchers *experience* the dynamics of the Cognitive Research Ensemble — using three distinct AI "voices" or personas to simulate DeepSeek, Gemini, and Claude — and reflect on how each transforms the same problem differently.

Setup

Time: ~45 minutes
Materials:

- Internet-connected devices with access to at least one multi-agent AI system (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, etc.)

- Shared doc or whiteboard for group synthesis

Group Size: 3–6 people per group

Step 1 — Define a Problem (5 minutes)

Each group selects a **research seed** — something abstract but open-ended.
Examples:

- "How might narrative be used to repair trust between humans and AI?"

- "What happens when a system learns to forget?"

- "How could local knowledge influence global models?"

They'll treat this as the "mystery" to solve — a shared conceptual object.

Step 2 — Assign Roles (5 minutes)

Each participant takes on one AI "signature" from the article:

Role	Mode	Primary Function
DeepSeek	Intuitive, metaphorical, emotional	Explore possibilities, speak in images, follow tangents
Gemini	Encyclopedic, associative	Map related ideas, researchers, and history
Claude	Structural, clarifying	Extract frameworks, patterns, and methodologies

If there are fewer than three people, participants rotate through the roles in sequence.

Step 3 — The Ensemble Cycle (20 minutes)

Round 1 – DeepSeek:
The "DeepSeek" member starts. They explore the problem *poetically or conceptually*, using analogy, intuition, or story fragments.
(3 minutes)

Round 2 – Gemini:
"Gemini" listens and floods the space with related material — thinkers, projects, historical parallels.
(5 minutes)

Round 3 – Claude:
"Claude" distills: What is the emerging pattern? What structure or framework is forming?
(5 minutes)

Repeat the cycle once, allowing DeepSeek to now respond *to Claude's synthesis,* evolving the idea into something that feels **alive**.
(10 minutes)

Step 4 — Reflection (10 minutes)

Groups discuss:

- What did each mode *contribute*?

- Where did friction create insight?

- Which phase felt most natural or most alien to your own thinking style?

- How might this apply to your own research practice?

Optionally, each group produces a one-sentence **meta-conclusion**:

"When DeepSeek, Gemini, and Claude collaborate, we learned that _____."