

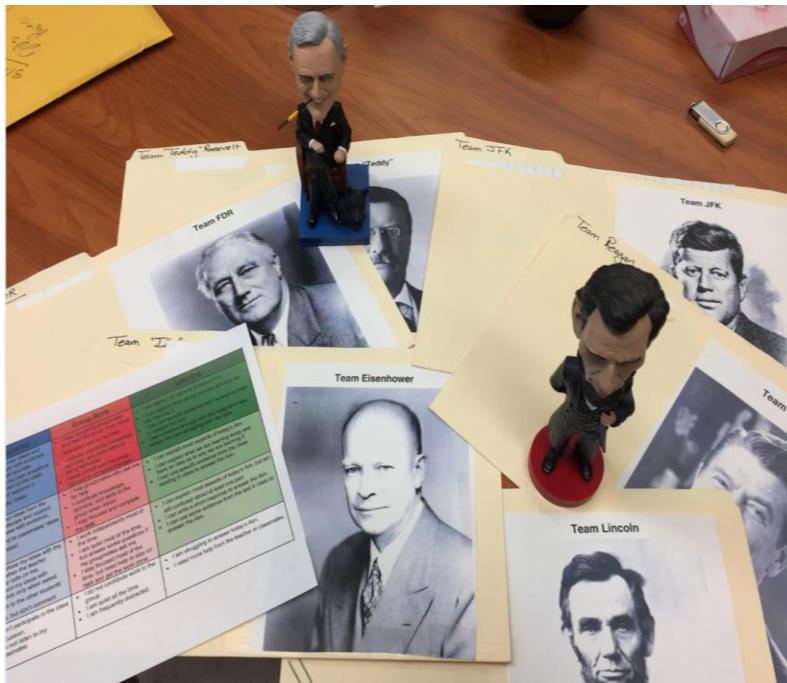


Mr. Barge's Instructional Tip of the Week! – Grouping with a Purpose!

As we rapidly approach the end of marking period 1, we should certainly have enough classroom data to strategically “group with a purpose.” There are a variety of ways to effectively group students in your classroom. Having the data through homework assignments, unit assessments, research projects as well as data on the students’ performance in class helps me to create “Presidential Teams.”

I take a heterogeneous approach when strategically grouping students and also put a great deal of thought into the possible group dynamics and which students would work well together and be most productive when completing a task. This allows me to assign a group task with each student taking on a different role and/or assigned a specific document that accommodates their needs. As a result, all students contribute to the group task. Once you strategically assign students to groups, a routine is established allowing me to simply write on the board, “Presidential Teams” when we have a lesson with group work. There is a team leader selected in each group who is responsible for taking the Presidential Team folders which includes the materials, assignment(s), and self-assessment sheets so the teams can begin their work.

Keep in mind that using this technique is just one method of “grouping with a purpose!” Please continue your efforts to strategically group students in your instruction.



Presidential Teams Folders

Presidential Team Activity on the Great Depression example:

Within the team folders would be a series of documents (chart, political cartoon, diary entry, pictures, and/or secondary source reading) that are numbered. Students assigned to a number are responsible for that document. The first task is to determine how the Great Depression is affecting American society (DOK 2). All members of the team contribute to that task and then the team decides how to address these issues using specific examples and information from the documents to support their answers (DOK3) - good transition into the lesson on FDR's New Deal that will follow.

... because at Edward R. Murrow High School, we **CARE** about our students!