

# The Structures Make the Difference

**N**umbered Heads Together. Timed Pair Share. RoundTable. Showdown. RallyCoach. These are just a few of the over 200 structures Kagan has developed and trains. Kagan Structures are easy for teachers to learn and use, and when used properly, they make a dramatic difference in student engagement, thinking, and learning.



## Brain Compatible

Kagan structures are aligned with the best brain principles. They reduce threat by providing a safe, supportive learning environment. A high level of stimulation results from students interacting with classmates and with the curriculum. Different structures call for different groupings and different roles within groups. The number of structures increases classroom novelty. Structures provide students opportunities to discover patterns, make choices, and construct their own meaning.

## Greater Joy

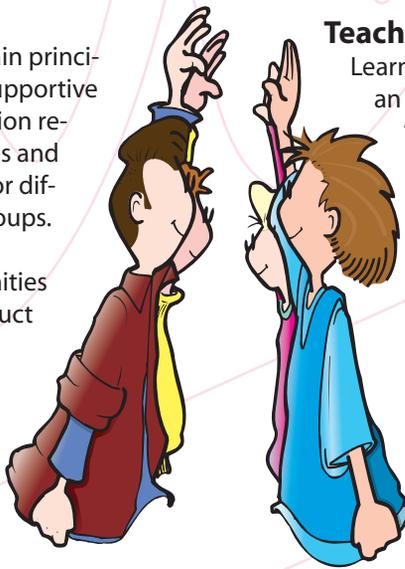
Students report greater joy in learning, more interest, and increased liking for school and class.

## Real-Life and Workplace Skills

In the workplace and throughout students' lives there are a few certainties. Students will need to know how to get along with and work effectively with others. They will need to be able to adapt to a rapidly evolving workplace. Through Kagan Structures, students practice leadership skills, teamwork skills, conflict resolution skills, and communication skills—essential skills that will serve students for life.

## Improved Outcomes

Schools and districts who have adopted Kagan Structures report higher achievement scores. They also report a wide range of other improved outcomes including: a more positive social climate, dramatically improved ethnic relations, more enthusiastic and engaged students, and fewer discipline referrals. Engaged students are not discipline problems.



## Teacher Tools for Life

Learning one structure empowers teachers to create an infinite number of activities. Kagan Structures are "reusable." Thus, the ratio of learning time to improved teaching time is greater than any other approach. Structures are not one more thing to teach. Structures are an easier way to teach. They will not be replaced when the next new program comes down the educational pike. The structures empower teachers for a lifetime.

## Easy to Use

The Kagan Structures are teacher-friendly. Rather than preparing complex cooperative learning or multiple intelligences lessons, the teacher uses simple Kagan Structures as part of any lesson.

## Ongoing, Authentic Assessment

While students are engaged in the learning task, the teacher is free to walk around, watch, and listen. A representative sample of the class is sampled, not just those who want to show off what they know. This allows teachers to fine tune their input, to better adjust to the actual level of their learners.

## Delivering an Embedded Curriculum

Equally important as what students learn is how students learn. Character virtues such as caring, cooperation, respect, and responsibility are not acquired by reading about or listening to lectures on these virtues. They are acquired as students practice these virtues in their daily interactions. The same is true with emotional intelligence, cooperative skills, multiple intelligences, and higher-level thinking. Content knowledge is important, but so too are the personal and social skills students acquire with each new structure.

## Kagan Structures Distinguish Kagan from other Professional Development Providers