

Project CRISS® and Kagan Cooperative Learning

By Dr. Judy Bramlett

During a CRISS Level I workshop conducted at an urban high school in Texas, our team of five trainers discovered that many teachers had been trained in Kagan Cooperative Learning. Some of them were puzzled about how they could implement CRISS strategies when they were still refining their use of cooperative learning methods and structures. One of our trainers, Mary Jane Barton, quickly developed a chart showing how cooperative learning structures could help to deliver the philosophy and principles of CRISS. She gave examples of structures that she used, interwoven with CRISS strategies, in her own 8th grade classroom. Like many other experienced teachers using multiple programs, she had discovered the complementary nature of these two programs. For example, a **key principle** of Project CRISS is **active involvement** in learning. Kagan's program focuses on cooperative student-to-student interaction over subject matter—**one way** of producing active involvement.

After seeing Mary Jane's thought-provoking chart, I continued to analyze these two programs by reviewing a Kagan manual and correlating some sample cooperative learning structures with Project CRISS principles and strategies. See the following chart.

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CRISS Principles	CRISS Strategies	Kagan Structures
Background Knowledge	K-W-L or KEL Pre- and Post-reading Map	Rotating Review (Carousel) Think-Pair-Share
Active Involvement	Mapping Two-Column Notes, all types Content Frames Pattern Puzzle	Think-Pair-Share or Think-Pair-Square Pair Discussion/Pairs Compare Team Word Webbing Gallery Tour
Discussion	QARs Questions for Higher Level Thinking Sticky-Note Discussion Seed Discussion	Toss a Question Paraphrase Passport Turn-4-Thought Pair Discussion/Pairs Compare
Writing	Learning Logs RAFT Writing Templates (or Framed Paragraphs)	Draw What I Say/Write Same/Different & Writing Only Maps and Chains
Metacognition	Group K-W-L Chart Vocabulary Map Summarizing	Guess the Fib Reflection Form Team Word Webbing Rotating Review (Carousel)
Organizing Information	Two-Column Notes Content Frames Mapping	One and All VENN Diagrams Sequencing
Modeling and Explanation	Always model a new strategy for students and explain the what and the why!	Cooperative structures often require modeling and careful explanation for teams to work effectively.