



# *The Mouth* Tip Sheet



## *What is The Mouth Activity?*

The Mouth is an instructional strategy in which the teacher proposes one or two open ended questions and students take turns sharing answers to questions in an organized manner.

## *How does The Mouth help students learn?*

The Mouth helps student learn by allowing them to interact and express themselves in their small groups. The Mouth assures all students in a group respond to the question(s) provided. Students cannot to "hide" in the crowd; they have the responsibility to participate. The questions asked in this activity also reinforce the learning as they are designed to be open ended with built in success.

## *Creating The Mouth!*



- Choose the "power object" which you would like to use for your "mouth."
  - These objects can be anything your students would recognize as the power object.
  - Some teachers like to use clip art reproductions of school mascots or content specific pictures (like science could have pictures of flasks or graduated cylinders).
  - Although you certainly could use a picture of a mouth for your power objects, junior high students have been known to be creative on their use and placement of that object, which can detract from the purpose of the activity.
- Using card stock, or heavy paper, reproduce enough power objects for each group to have one.
- Laminate your power objects.

## *Using The Mouth in the classroom*

- In small groups, students stand and students pass the "power object" from person to person.
- As each person receives the object they are to share one sentence with the group. It could answer:
  - A focus question from the lesson (i.e. of the three \_\_\_'s we talked about, which was most important?)
  - Sharing what they thought was the most interesting fact given during class.
  - What did you learn during the lecture today?
  - What surprised about the topic we discussed today?
- After everyone has shared, the group sits back down.

