



## Sample Professional Development Activity: Grouping Strategy (Shape Partners)

**Professional development focus or topic:** Strategy for grouping participants in order to hear multiple perspectives and to include physical movement.

**Intended audience:** Whole group of teachers (any grade)

**Outcomes:** Teachers will be able to ...

- Meet colleagues participating in the professional development
- Understand perspectives of other participants

### Preparation:

- Copy the Shape Partners handout provided on the next page, one for each participant.

**Description of activity:**

- Give a Shape Partners handout to each participant.
- Explain that they will roam around the room and identify four people (not currently sitting at their table) to be their shape partners. For example, find a partner that has a shape available. Each participant writes the other's name on that shape. When they have different names for each shape, they can return to their seat.
- Sometimes, it will work out that not everyone gets a name for all four shapes. Explain that this is fine. When you ask participants to find their trapezoid shape, for example, if they do not have a name or their partner is absent, they can come to the front of the room and you can facilitate finding partners. If everyone is partnered, ask them to join a group to make a trio.
- This strategy can be used for stand-up conversations, or partners can find a place to sit with their new partner for an extended activity.

*Note:* You can use this activity to form groups for the rest of the session, or you can have participants return to their original table group.

## NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Shape Partners For Tool 12.7

