Overview:

The Jigsaw classroom method[[1]](#footnote-1) can be easily adapted for use on VIULearn (D2L) to support students to develop expert knowledge in an assigned topic and to engage deeply with the content by reviewing, summarizing, and then sharing what was learned.

Week One:

Assign reading on specific topics to student groups in week one and ask the group to summarize their reading in response to specific categories or reflective questions. Students discuss their reading and post their final summary by the end of the week. Depending on class / group size, discussion forums or online rooms can be utilized. A template can be used to ensure the topic is covered thoroughly. Students become the expert on their assigned topic.

Week Two:

Redistribute students into new groups with one expert from each topic present in the new group. Each student shares his or her expert knowledge in a discussion forum and responds to any questions or need for clarification from members of the new group until comprehension is generally achieved.

This activity allows a group to collectively explore a large number of related topics in a relatively short period of time and to integrate key concepts.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Sample Instructions:

#### Jigsaw

Please participate in this week's Jigsaw Activity. Jigsaws are a collaborative learning strategy that you might enjoy learning more about. I've provided you with a link to the original Jigsaw site. Here is a link to [Instructional Strategies Online - Jigsaw](http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/otai/Jigsaw.asp) where you can learn more if you are interested. We are adapting the jigsaw model a bit because of our small class size. Here's how our activity will unfold:

Phase One - Developing Knowledge and Expertise

1. Each student is assigned a partner for step one of the Jigsaw Activity during which you will develop knowledge and expertise. We'll call these groups DUO's.
2. Each duo will be assigned a topic. The topic assignments can be found in the Content section of this module. [Group Assignments for Jigsaw](https://d2l.viu.ca/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=54651&type=content&rcode=VIU-129164)
3. Review the template questions prior to reading your assigned topics so that you are aware of the information you are seeking. Here is the link to the template. [Jigsaw Guiding Questions Template](https://d2l.viu.ca/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=54651&type=content&rcode=VIU-129166)
4. You and your partner will both read your assigned topic in the first half of the week. The assigned reading can be found in the content section of this module. If you have any trouble locating your assigned reading, please contact me right away.
5. You are your partner will use the discussion forum called **Jigsaw Discussions** to share your first responses to the template questions by Wednesday evening. This is a chance for you to read deeply one chapter and discuss it in a small-group setting before discussing it as an expert with new members
6. You and your partner will then continue a discussion about your topic. The goal is to come to agreement on the answers to the template questions by Saturday evening. Saturday evening you will share a completed version of the template form in the discussion forum ***Jigsaw Final Documents***.

Next week we will complete Phase Two of this activity in which you will share what you have learned with half the class. In this new group of 5, each member will have read a different article and will be responsible to "teach" it to the other members.

#### Jigsaw Activity Phase 2

Please participate in this week's Jigsaw Activity. It is a continuation of last week's activity.

Phase Two - Sharing Your Knowledge and Expertise

1. Each student is assigned to a group of 5. (half the class) You will find your group assignments under Content. [Group Assignment for Jigsaw Activity Phase 2](https://d2l.viu.ca/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=54651&type=content&rcode=VIU-129688)
2. Each group member was part of a different duo last week so you each hold expertise on a different topic. (you read a different article or chapter)
3. Now is your chance to share what you learned last week. Here' what to do in the discussion forum titled **Group One - Experts** or ***Group Two - Experts.***
   * Start a new thread and use your assigned topic as the title of your post.
   * Write a brief opening post introducing your topic.
   * Attach the final version of the Jigsaw Guiding Questions template for your topic. (this will be the template you finished on Saturday with your duo partner)
   * Read the 4 posts with templates from the other members of your group.
   * Ask questions, comment, seek clarification, add information.
   * Return to your own topic / thread and respond to any comments or questions.

1. https://www.jigsaw.org/#overview [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://jolt.merlot.org/vol9no1/amador_0313.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)