Implementation of Talking Tokens

**What:** Students in groups of 3-6:

* Each given the same number of tokens (poker chips, pennies, paper clips, etc.), suggest 2-4 tokens, per teacher choice.
* Bowl placed in middle of group
* As students talk, make suggestions, ask each other questions, etc., they place their token in the bowl.
* When they are out of tokens, they can no longer speak.
* When all in the group are out of tokens, then students again take out designated number of tokens, and process starts over.

**Teacher Tasks:**

* Assign groups (heterogeneous as to gender and ethnicity recommended)
* Provide tokens to each group in a bowl/container
* Explain process
* Provide rationale for working in groups (only needs to be explained as needed):
  + #1 reason for losing a job is inability to work with peers (US. Dept. of Labor, 2010)
  + Predominate paradigm in today’s workplace is solving problems in groups (Murnane and Levy, 2006)
* Provide prompt, task, question to be answered, etc. to groups, and begin process
* Monitor by circulating, making comments to groups
* If teacher notices one student still has all their tokens, ask that student a question so they can become involved
* Establish time period for each task (2 – 10 minutes) and keep time accordingly; when a minute is left, quietly inform each group accordingly