Three-Step Interview

Overview
Three-step interview is an effective way to encourage students to share their thinking, ask questions, and take notes. It works best with three students per group, but it can be modified for groups of four.

Steps
1. Place students into groups of three.
2. Assign each student a letter and a role. Example: A = Interviewer, B = Interviewee, C = Reporter.
3. Rotate roles after each interview.
4. Have students do a Round Robin and share the key information they recorded when they were person ‘C’.

Hints and Management Ideas
➢ Questioning. Before students try this strategy, have them explore the types of questions reporters ask and at what point in the interview they ask them.
➢ Reinforcing the need to ‘take time’. Talk about the issue of taking time to think or deciding whether or not to answer a question during an interview.
➢ Using recording sheets. Consider providing students with recording sheets to use when they are in the role of ‘Reporter’.
➢ Determining the length of time for each interview. Depending on the age of your students and their experience with this cooperative learning strategy, you may have to adjust the length of time for the interviews.

Benefits of Three-Step Interview
➢ Three-Step Interview creates simultaneous accountability.
➢ Students share and apply different questioning strategies.
➢ Over time, students can be introduced to different taxonomies of thinking to extend their ability to use different levels of questioning and thinking.