

## Collaborating to Find Evidence

 **Time**

15 - 20 minutes

 **Materials**

Student Handout, Writing Lesson Text

 **Procedure**

1. Pair students and assign them an A and B role.
2. Ask students who read the same text to develop their claim for the Writing Lesson question individually, then to collaborate with a partner to combine their claims into a shared claim, including claims that both agree and disagree or include multiple viewpoints.
3. Give students 3-5 minutes to highlight one reason and one piece of evidence to support their claim.
4. Ask students to discuss their reason and evidence with their partner.
5. Determine which partner (A or B) shares first and give the first speaker one minute to share.
6. Ask the listening partner to follow up with a question.
7. The pair should look for duplicate reasons and pieces of evidence and refine their reasoning.
8. Have students join a second pair and repeat steps 4 and 5.
9. Group will consolidate evidence and reasoning from group discussion and eliminate any duplicates.
10. Teacher will call on students to share with the class the answer they have developed as a group.

 **Variations**

- Pull cards or sticks rather than assigning As or Bs to pairs.
- Assign opposing positions to spark a debate.
- Have students construct their full argument together.
- Add an additional share: make the groups of four meet another group of four to consolidate and refine.

 **Management Tips**

- Model good listening and discussion skills, highlight examples of success, and encourage all students to participate and respond appropriately to one another.
- Students should take a written note of at least one valuable idea produced by their partner.

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- Students should understand that they will have to switch partners from time to time, and do so in a timely and non-disruptive manner.
  - Consider rewarding students for strong participation, valuable comments, and behavior that shows support and encouragement for fellow learners.