Active Learning Technique

**Steps**

1. Assign roles to people in groups or have them sign up for one - can be based on any theme - I use the state tree, flower, bird, mammal, and insects of various states. You could use playing card suites or other themes.

2. For class discussion questions, allow time for groups to discuss among themselves.

3. Have some random method to call on the role to report for the group when there are class discussion questions - I use a homemade die with pictures on it of a tree, flower, bird, mammal, insect, and a Roll Again side. I give it to a random student and have them roll, then the side that comes up will be the role that reports what the group discussed for the whole class discussion. You could have students draw cards and use the suit on the card.

4. Facilitate the discussion among groups by pointing out connections and differences.

**Benefit to Student**

The benefit is all roles have an equally random chance of being chosen, so all group members should pay attention and participate in the group discussion in case they need to report. The students get the opportunity to discuss with their group first and don’t feel so ‘on the spot’ speaking to the entire class.