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Sincerely, Karen Haag

I hope I can help you in some small way. Please feel free to email with questions ©

## **Steps for First Discussion Groups**

- (1) **Election:** Elect a leader. Rotate leadership each time.
- (2) **Welcome:** Leader welcomes everyone by name.



(3) Purpose: Leader states purpose for getting together. Example:

**Today's purpose:** We are in groups today to practice using connections. We will discuss how connections help us understand the reading.

- (4) **Discussion:** Leader decides whether he/she will call on participants or let volunteers take the lead.
- (5) **Summary:** The group generalizes what happened in the group. The leader takes notes to report back to the class.
- (6) **Compliment:** The leader compliments each participant and allows group members to share compliments as well. Be specific!
- (7) **Assessment:** The group assesses their work on the commitment contract.
- (8) **Closing:** The members say good-bye to one another, push their chairs back and begin reading as a signal that their group is finished discussing.

**Assessment:** When all the groups are ready or when the time limit is called, the leaders report their summaries to the whole class. The teacher and/or students critique the summaries and discuss the ideas.