

# Project CRISS® and Kagan Cooperative Learning

By Dr. Judy Bramlett

During a CRISS Level I workshop conducted at an urban high school in Texas, our team of five trainers discovered that many teachers had been trained in Kagan Cooperative Learning. Some of them were puzzled about how they could implement CRISS strategies when they were still refining their use of cooperative learning methods and structures. One of our trainers, Mary Jane Barton, quickly developed a chart showing how cooperative learning structures could help to deliver the philosophy and principles of CRISS. She gave examples of structures that she used, interwoven with CRISS strategies, in her own 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. Like many other experienced teachers using multiple programs, she had discovered the complementary nature of these two programs. For example, a **key principle** of Project CRISS is **active involvement** in learning. Kagan's program focuses on cooperative student-to-student interaction over subject matter—**one way** of producing active involvement.

After seeing Mary Jane's thought-provoking chart, I continued to analyze these two programs by reviewing a Kagan manual and correlating some sample cooperative learning structures with Project CRISS principles and strategies. See the following chart.

NOTE: This article first appeared in the Spring 2004 *Comments from CRISS®* newsletter. All material is copyrighted. Permission is granted to photocopy or print this article in its entirety, as long as all credits remain intact with the article and the Project CRISS copyright appears on the materials. This article may not be used in any other publication in any medium, without the express, written permission of Project CRISS.

©Project CRISS

<b>CRISS Principles</b>	<b>CRISS Strategies</b>	<b>Kagan Structures</b>
<b>Background Knowledge</b>	K-W-L or KEL Pre- and Post-reading Map	Rotating Review (Carousel) Think-Pair-Share
<b>Active Involvement</b>	Mapping Two-Column Notes, all types Content Frames Pattern Puzzle	Think-Pair-Share or Think-Pair-Square Pair Discussion/Pairs Compare Team Word Webbing Gallery Tour
<b>Discussion</b>	QARs Questions for Higher Level Thinking Sticky-Note Discussion Seed Discussion	Toss a Question Paraphrase Passport Turn-4-Thought Pair Discussion/Pairs Compare
<b>Writing</b>	Learning Logs RAFT Writing Templates (or Framed Paragraphs)	Draw What I Say/Write Same/Different & Writing Only Maps and Chains
<b>Metacognition</b>	Group K-W-L Chart Vocabulary Map Summarizing	Guess the Fib Reflection Form Team Word Webbing Rotating Review (Carousel)
<b>Organizing Information</b>	Two-Column Notes Content Frames Mapping	One and All VENN Diagrams Sequencing
<b>Modeling and Explanation</b>	Always model a new strategy for students and explain the what and the why!	Cooperative structures often require modeling and careful explanation for teams to work effectively.