

## **5-3-1**

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5-3-1 is a collaborative group strategy used to help students organize and integrate information about the concepts they are learning. Students work with peers in their groups to identify five (5) words that are key or essential to the topic. The students then share their ideas, one at a time, and explore ideas that they consider to be central to the topic. The students then review the central ideas to determine an appropriate label for those three ideas.

### **How to implement the strategy:**

1. Explain to the students that they are going to practice a strategy called 5-3-1 to help them organize and integrate information related to the content they have been studying.
2. Divide the students into groups of three to four students.
3. Have each group work together to identify five (5) words that are essential to the topic.
4. Explain to the students that they now need to think about three (3) ideas that are central to the topic.
5. Have students take turns exploring their thoughts about the ideas that are the most important or central to the topic.
6. Have students identify the three they all agree on.
7. Tell the students to imagine they have put all three of those ideas into one container.
8. Have them think about and explore their thoughts about what an appropriate label would be for the container.
9. Have them identify the label for the container.
10. Have each group share their 5-3-1 results with the rest of the class.

### **Variation:**

**5-3-1 + 1:** As students listen to each other, group members place additional items in their +1 columns based on the sharing from other groups. This variation reinforces listening skills and enhances the group's knowledge base.

### **Adapted from:**

- Garmston, Robert J. and Wellman, Bruce M. (2009). *The adaptive school: A sourcebook for developing collaborative groups*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Norwood, MA. Christopher-Gordon.