**Placemat**

This cooperative learning strategy allows students to think about, record, and share their ideas in groups.

Procedure

1. Assign a topic.

2. Form groups of up to four members.

3. Give each group a piece of chart paper and each student a pen or pencil.

4. Divide the paper into parts based on the number of members in the group, and leave a central square or circle.

5. Have students write their ideas about the assigned topic in the designated spaces. After sharing their ideas, they write common ideas in the center of the paper.

**Hints and Management Ideas**

• *Inform students* that they should be prepared to share their responses.

• *Encourage* independent thinking as well as group sharing.

• *Monitor the discussions* for common confusions that can be addressed later with the whole group.

**Example: Octopus**