# TASK TEMPLATES

## D.  Information Gap

**Description**

Students are given a task to accomplish, but each group member only has part of the necessary information.   The students must combine and synthesize their individual bits of information in order to solve a problem or make a decision.

**Materials Needed**

•each student receives a master sheet as well as a set of specific information (aka clues).

**Preparation**

•Search for topics that can be visually presented such as geography via maps, genealogy via family trees, institutional and political organization via flow charts, statistical relationships via pie charts, diagrams and tables.
•Choose the visual aid and erase much of the information.
•The "missing" information that you removed must be distributed as 'clues' to the students.  Make separate clues sheets with this missing information.

**In Class**

1.  Tell the students the goal of the task, eg., to plan a trip using a map, to reconstruct a family's genealogy, to discern social or economic trends using statistics, etc.
2.  Pre-teach any vocabulary or phrases
3.  Give a time limit

**Further Suggestions**

1.  The difficulty level can be easily raised by creating more missing information from the master sheet.  You may want to try this on a small group of students first to determine difficulty level.
2.  You may want to put a master copy of the diagram on an overhead transparency to guide the students' interactions.