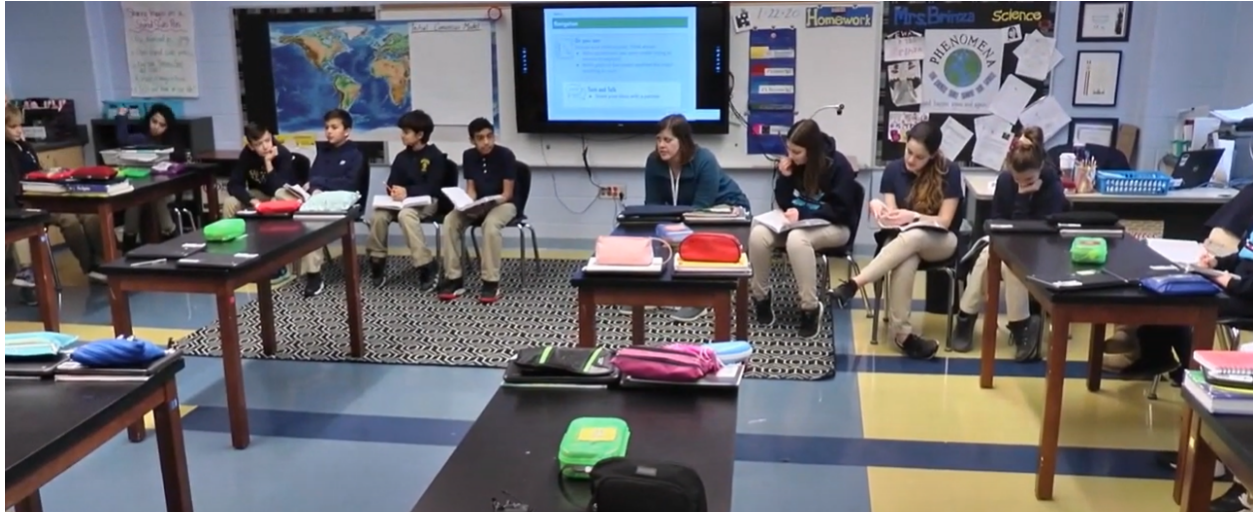


Scientist Circle



Form a Scientists Circle. * Ask students to assemble their chairs in a circle and to bring their science notebook and something to write with. Students will remain in the circle for the whole class period, though they will move among partner, small-group, and whole-class discussions. This will help minimize the movement of chairs during class.

SCIENTISTS CIRCLE You will form a Scientists Circle in many future lessons. Setting up the norms and logistics for forming, equitably participating in, and breaking down that space is important to do now if this is your first time with this activity structure. As students get more comfortable with a Scientists Circle, they can move between it and other activity structures more quickly. Ideally they need to be able to see both the slides and the class whiteboard, but if that is not possible, the whiteboard (or chart paper) will be more critical for the discussion than the slides. If you have back-to-back science classes, ask students to leave the chairs in the circle.

* ATTENDING TO EQUITY Supporting Universal Design for Learning: Having students sit in a circle so they can see and face one another helps support engagement and build a sense of shared mission as a community of learners working together. Throughout the course of a unit, convening a Scientists Circle to take stock of what the class has figured out and where to go next will be an important tool in helping students take on greater agency in steering the direction of their learning. This circle will also help build a sense of pride in their work. You may want to inform students that professional scientists also collaborate with one another to brainstorm, discuss, and review their work.

Source:  OpenSciEd