**Circle the Sage**

Students who understand a concept or who can perform a particular skill are selected as “sages” to model for their peers. Students gather around the sages to learn. Afterwards, students return to teams to share ideas.

**How to Use:**

1. Teacher polls the class to see who has special knowledge/experiences that would benefit the class.

2. Those students are the “sages”. They stand and spread out in the room.

3. The remaining students are placed in teams of 3-5.

4. Each member of a team goes to a different sage (students will surround or “circle” the sages). No two members of the same team go to the same sage.

5. The sage then shares his/her knowledge/experiences with the students that surround him/her.

6. The students ask questions, listen, and take notes. After a designated period of time, students return to their teams. Each student shares what he/she learned from the sage with the team.

7. The team members compare notes.

8. If there is a disagreement within a group, that team will stand.

9. Disagreements are discussed with the class and resolved.

**When to use:**

- To address group questions

- To decide directions in solving a word problem in math; listen to solutions shared by others and gather data in response to questions posed by teacher

- Attend to a listening activity for an extended period of time; listen to comprehend or acquire information

- To remediate weak skills

- To challenge enhanced students

**Variations:**

Students can rotate from one sage to another in order to practice listening for information or to have students give oral presentations on a topic.