How to Create a Sociogram in a Classroom

To construct a class sociogram, ask each pupil to confidentially list two students to work with on an activity. The topic does not matter. In most cases, the social relationships will be relatively constant regardless of the activity. Make sure they put their own name on the top of the paper.

Write up this data as a chart. Different-sized circles, as in the diagram, give visual impact to these relationships and make it easy to discern the various degrees of popularity. This can be done either on a computer, or by hand tracing. Arrows indicate who is choosing whom.

How to Use a Sociogram to Improve Learning

Here are three patterns to look for when breaking down a class sociogram:

**Isolates**—One of the alerts a teacher gets from this is that there are both boys and girls – the isolates – who no one has chosen or who have only been chosen by another isolate. While it is wise to have a certain degree of philosophical skepticism in making initial assumptions about isolates, they are a cause for concern. You want to make sure they feel connected and supported in the classroom.

**Gender**—Another alert is the clear division between the boys and the girls. This may or may not be a cause for concern, but regardless, it’s valuable data.

**Groups**—There are several quite tight groups which may well merit some degree of skepticism. Are these groups “cliques” that exclude others? If nothing else, the sociogram can be used as a guide for further, more focused, observation.