Mutual Coaching Strategy

A variation on the Critical Response Process, Mutual Coaching Strategy is specialized for peer-to-peer interaction and collaboration.

**ROUND 1**

1. Artist shows work: Participating artists/students form pairs. One (“artist”) performs/shows the material while the other (“coach”) watches/listens.
2. Coach comments: The watching/listening partner offers a few comments on aspects of the performance that worked well or were effective, striking, or meaningful.

**ROUND 2**

1. Artist states area of focus: The artist now invites feedback about a specific aspect of his/her presentation. A dancer might say: “I’m working on my transitions,” a storyteller: “I’m trying to differentiate my voice as narrator from the characters who speak in the story,” or a pianist: “I want the right hand to play lyrically while I keep the left hand percussive.” The artist then repeats the passage.
2. Coach responds: The coaching partner attends to the repeat and gives feedback on the focus area the artist has identified.

**ROUND 3**

1. Coach offers additional focus area: The coach now names another area for the performer to work on, “Think about keeping your movement more fluid across the shoulders;” “Try varying the loudness and softness of your speaking;” “See what results you get if you use the pedal a little more sparingly.”
2. Debrief: After a final performance of the material, partners debrief to assess progress that was observed, share insights gained, or consider future steps.

**FROM THE TOP**

Switch and repeat: Participants reverse roles and repeat the process.

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