Classroom Group Randomization Exercises
Exercises Require a Deck of Cards

Green Randomization (Martha Olney/David Green)
Makes no one feel left out and shifts roles around randomly.

1. Use a deck of cards. You are unlikely to get all the cards back, so it should be a deck you have no emotional investment in.
2. Before class, select as many cards as you expect in attendance. Use as many suits as you want people in each group.
   For example, if you anticipate 32 in section and want groups of 4, you will use all four suits and maybe Ace – 8’s. or, if you anticipate 30 and want groups of 3, you’ll use 3 suits and Ace-10’s.
3. Shuffle the deck.
4. Place it on a table/desk near where the students enter. Students draw a card as they enter.
5. Instruct them to sit in groups according to whether they are A-2-3-4-etc. Ace’s over here, 2’s over there, 3’s sit over here, etc.
6. Randomize which suit is doing which task. For instance, “today, let's have the spaces write the group’s answers on the board”.

Turn-Over Randomization (Janet Watson)
Helps students move out of their comfort zone and encourage them to try new groups.

1. Randomly deal out appropriate number of cards.
2. Have someone (usually GSI) turn them over and people get to sign up when their card is called.
3. It is completely random and works when everyone wants one of the four spots within a designated group.

Parallel Randomization (Bob Leone)
Gets people up and out of their seats, random in regards to anything important, and gets gender-mixed groups. Also reduces awkwardness, and pushes students to pay attention to each other. *although might be too complicated to perform in one day.

1. Have the class form two straight parallel lines, one each for men and women, in order of height.
2. Instruct the lines to Interleave one to one.
3. Have the one line form a circle, and count off by any odd number of groups you want and remind them to remember their number.
   For example, 12345-12345 etc.
Jigsaw Randomization (Hayley Lam)

Works for jigsaw discussions in class, sorts students in two dimensions, and easy to arrange in small and big groups. Students learn from each other by teaching each other.

Example for 32 students with a classroom discussion with 4 separate but related topics:

1. Distribute randomly four suits numbered 1-8 to the class.
2. Round 1 (Groups): Students come together by same suits in groups of 2-3 and discuss assigned topic for their suit.
   
   For example:
   Groups -> Spades 1-3, 4-6, 7-8; Hearts 1-3, 4-6; etc…
   Topics -> Spades: Adult Cells, Hearts: Cancer Cells, Diamonds: Stem Cells, Clubs: iPS Cells

3. Round 2 (Cross-sharing): Students group themselves by number and share their insights from Round 1 with their new group.

   For Example:
   Groups -> all 1s, 2s, 3s…etc… so that each groups as one of each suit/topic now

All students must share their knowledge to others as they are the only 'expert' on that particular topic in the group.
Have pre-made worksheets with discussion questions, or a short reading + questions, or specific tasks for each round clearly laid out so there is no time for them to mess around and waste time.