

Teaching Strategies for Effective Group Work

Ten Research-Based Steps for Effective Group Work

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https://www.ideaedu.org/idea_papers/ten-research-based-steps-for-effective-group-work/

A suggestion for achieving active learning in classrooms and studios often involves students working in groups. There are many advantages of this pedagogical approach, which include: students developing metacognition, applying concepts and solving problems collaboratively, improving critical thinking and getting support from peers. Group work can also be quite challenging to manage, as it involves complex cognitive and affective elements of human social interactions.

The 10 research based practices shared in this article are the following:

1. Clarify Your Learning Goals for Group Work
2. Be Transparent with Your Students about Your Reasons for Using Groups
3. Be Proactive in Anticipating and Addressing Student Resistance
4. Help Students Maximize Their Experience in Groups by Prompting Good Group Practices
5. Based on your Learning Goals, Decide Between Using Casual Groups or Structured Teams
6. Form Groups in Ways that Fit Your Goals
7. Design Group Assignments Worthy of a Group Effort
8. Consider Factoring Group Work into Your Grading Scheme
9. Help Students Recognize and Reflect on Their Learning from the Group
10. Close the Loop in Your Course Design by Assessing the Use of Groups in Your Class

Additional Resources and Strategies for faculty on Group or Team Work:

- Watanabe Spiller, Micki. (2021). SoTL Research: Team Based Learning in a Foundation Studio Class. Iteratio, Issue #1.
<https://files.cargocollective.com/c1819094/1-Team-Based-Learning-in-a-Foundation-Studio-Class.pdf>
- Fathallah, Rim. (2021). Pedagogies for Democratic Participation in Design Studios: Towards More Inclusive Group Work among Interior Design Students. iJADE 40.4. Wiley Blackwell.
<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=e029ee18-64d2-379a-bf74-af851916e3ff> (Pratt Library access needed)

- Group Work Techniques by K. Patricia Cross Academy:
<https://kpcrossacademy.ua.edu/activity-type/group-work/>
- Effective Group Work Strategies for the College Classroom in Faculty Focus Special Report. Magna Publication.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MIEcGLzr8rJtfg0wffRmQ3poBuukrWDd/view>
- Carnegie Mellon University's Eberly Center offers tools for creating, monitoring, and assessing groups during group projects.
<https://www.cmu.edu/teaching/designteach/design/instructionalstrategies/groupprojects/index.html>
- University of Waterloo's Centre for Teaching Excellence provides teaching tips for implementing group work in the classroom: Prepare, Design, Introduce, Monitor and End the group tasks.
<https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/alternatives-lecturing/group-work/implementing-group-work-classroom>
- This article on Edutopia by Jeff Knutson is about tools and tips for setting up effective group work <https://www.edutopia.org/article/setting-effective-group-work>
- The Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at University of Indiana and Bloomington shares teaching strategies for group work: Organize your group and Designate roles for the group.
<https://cctl.indiana.edu/teaching-resources/teaching-strategies/group-work/>
- Cuseo, J. (1992). The Case & Context for Collaborative and Cooperative (Team) Learning.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259528026_Cooperative_Learning_Vs_Small_Group_Discussions_and_Group_Projects_The_Critical_Differences