



Teaching Your Students to Work in Groups

Workshop Description

Students often don't come to us with the ability to cooperate and collaborate effectively. Teachers know that group work can benefit their students if facilitated well, but can also cause some time consuming challenges for both students and teachers. Let's get together for a conversation about using group work in our classrooms. This workshop will focus on tools to ready your students for group work, the creation of group contracts, ways to avoid group phenomenon that can spoil group work productivity, and activities you can use for successful short term group work in the classroom.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- List the advantages and disadvantages of using group work
- Explain the significance of the stages of group development theory to creating groups in their classrooms
- Create short term group activities for use in their classrooms based on activities demonstrated in the workshop

Workshop Facilitator:

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Workshop Resources:

The Unfortunate Motivation Behind Assigning Groupwork

<http://paulrheller.com/2010/08/the-unfortunate-motivation-behind-assigning-group-work>

Implementing Group Work in the Classroom (University of Waterloo)

<https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/alternatives-lecturing/group-work/implementing-group-work-classroom>

Working in Groups (Harvard University)

<http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/html/icb.topic58474/wigintro.html>

What are The Challenges of Group Work and How Can I Address Them?

<http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/design/teach/instructionalstrategies/groupprojects/challenges.html>

Effects of Group Size on Problem Solving

by Kendra Cherry

<http://psychology.about.com/od/psychologynews/qt/groupsize.htm>