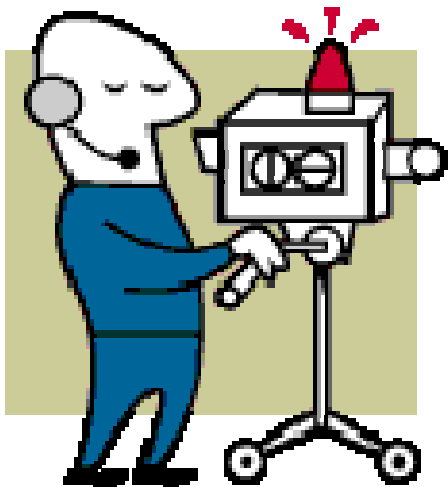# Strategies for Effective Group Work

Presenters:
Brian Wilrich
Janice Warren
Tracey Kadish

Objective

- Ideas to promote student satisfaction and success for group assignments.

Group Activity

- **Two groups**
- **Come up with team name**
  - **Determine team leader**
  - **You have 2 minutes!**

- **Times up!**
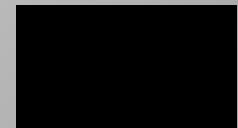 - **Let's play a game!**

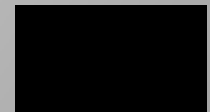# Ridgetown Feud

Discussion

Your Questions

The Student Perspective

Student Insights

- Different backgrounds
  - ◦ Life experiences
  - ◦ Family situations
  - ◦ Team sports

- Personalities
  - ◦ Different strengths
  - ◦ Conflicting goals
  - ◦ Dominant personalities
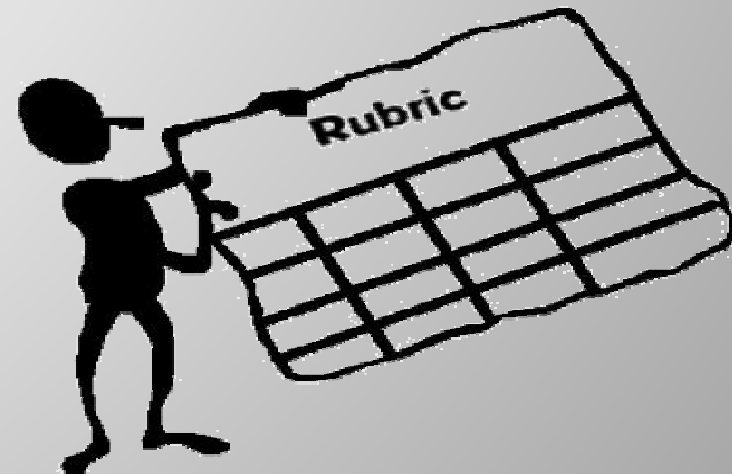 - ◦ Freeloaders
  - ◦ Work ethic
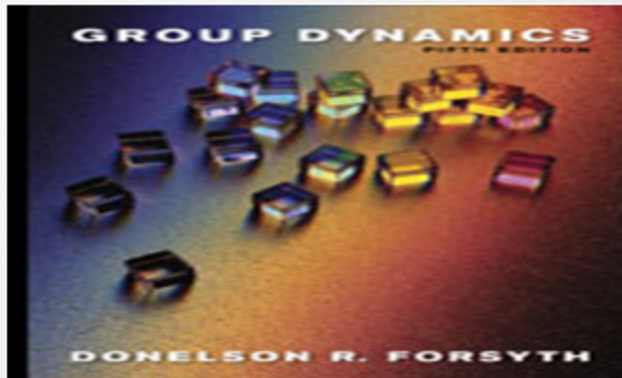 - ◦ Rapport

The Faculty Perspective

Moving Forward

Tools for Success

Tools

Teach how to do group work

- Faculty training

- Shared course for 1st year students

- Devote entire class (or more) to the process of group work
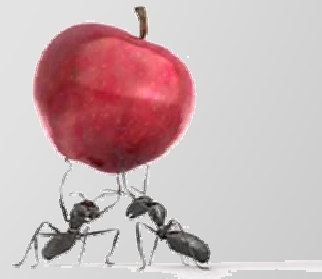
Tools

Create Relevance

- Discuss why the project is being assigned
  - Industry
  - Teamwork

- Present real industry situations

- Discuss goals and outcomes that will be achieved

Tools

Group Formation – Teacher selected

- Quick student survey

- Strengths

- Colours/Personality Dimensions

- Diversity

Tools

<u>Group Formation – Student Selected</u>

- Team leads

- Professional interests

- Give them time to think about skills needed

Tools

<u>Planning and Operation of Group Work</u>

- Create a contract
  - Define roles & procedures

- Provide students with a comprehensive outline

- Monitor the group work

Tools

Evaluation Process

- Individual or Group Grade or both
  - Weighting of the grade

- Peer Evaluations

- Grading throughout the semester

Tools

Competition

- Awards program

- The Apprentice

- Industry Panel

Inclusion

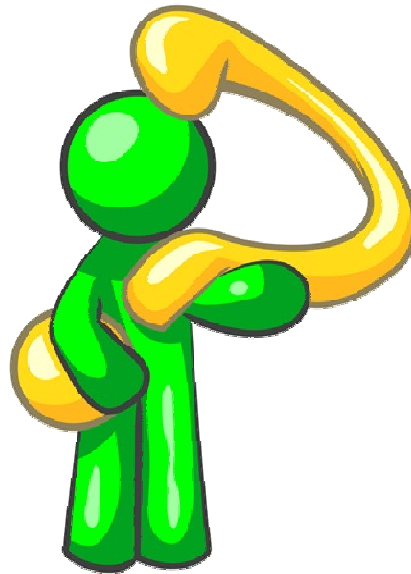Disabilities Services Perspective

Students with Disabilities

Closing Thoughts

Questions answered?

Resources

- McConnell, C.A. & Sasse, C.M. (1999). An Anticipatory Case for Managing Teams and Team Projects. Issues in Accounting Education , 14 (1), 41-54.

- Morgan, B. (2005). Cooperative learning in higher education: A comparison of undergraduate and graduate students' reflections on group exams for group grades. Journal on Excellence in College Teaching , 16 (1), 79-95.

- Page, D.& Donelan, J.G. (2003). Team-Building Tools for Students. Journal of Education for Business , 78 (3), 125-128.

- Teamwork - A Practical Guide for Students. (2003, January 28). Retrieved May 21, 2010, from Drexel University: http://www.pages.drexel.edu/~mitcheje/Teamwork/

- Strengths: https://www.strengthsquest.com/

- Colours/Personality Dimensions: http://www.personalitydimensions.com/