

PLANNING & GRADING GROUP WORK



Techniques, Tactics & Interventions

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CRITICAL PROBLEMS IN GRADING GROUP WORK



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FRAMING GROUP WORK

- Goals and Objectives
 - Building teamwork skills
 - Project-based learning
 - Multiple perspectives
 - Making larger projects feasible
 - Managing complexity
- Structure
 - Long or short duration
 - One big project or many smaller projects



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Setting Expectations

- Syllabus (see sample A)
 - Should indicate how group work is going to be graded
 - Expectations and rules for group work
- In class (see sample B)
 - Explanation and discussion
 - Continuous follow up
 - Offer some immediate feedback

SETTING GROUPS

- Maturity Level
 - Freshman/Sophomores
 - Juniors/Seniors
 - Graduate students
- Cultural Background
- Type of group work
 - Whole semester
 - See Sample C
 - One off project
- Deliverables
- Percentage of Grade
- Likelihood of conflict
- Probability of free riding / cheating



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DELIVERABLES

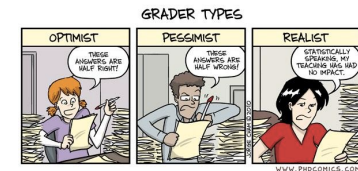


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- Paper
- Presentation
 - One or some presenting
 - All presenting
- Creative work
 - Video
 - Art work
 - Narrative
- Analysis
- Debate
- Discussion
- Exam

GRADING

- Deliverable (itself – sample D)
 - Grading method must match the goal and structure
 - Must be some symmetry to group member contributions
- Supplemental individual work
- Reflective report
- Timesheets
- Self assessment (see sample E & F)
- Peer assessment (see sample E & F)
- Midterm or final exam/paper



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COMMON PROBLEMS



- In-group cliques
 - Exclusion can often be interpreted as free riding
 - 'Intimate relationships'
- Personal and scheduling conflicts
- Free riding
- Social pressure
- Absences (especially on deliverable day)

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INTERVENTION TACTICS

- Pay close attention to avoid interventions in the first place
- Set benchmarks
 - Ask questions
 - Offer immediate feedback
- Surprise quiz or peer assessment
- Appoint group leaders
 - A must for high complexity/ longitudinal projects
 - Leader should have a proven track record of reliability in the course
 - High level of maturity
- Re-set groups
 - Strongest leader to struggling group
 - Struggling student to strongest group
- Request timesheets: Ask each group member to track their time on the project and what they worked on during that time



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