

Universal Design for Learning in Higher Ed Series

Group Work:

Challenges –Strategies – Expected Outcomes

Expected Outcomes

- Optimized student learning
- Relationship building
- High functioning groups
- Efficiency
- Minimal instructor intervention

Challenge: Hitchhikers and Hijackers

- One student monopolizes the group
- One or more students do not contribute
- Students strike out on their own
- Learning is incomplete



Strategies:

- Engagement
 - Keep group size small (2-4 members)
 - Each group member has a role that requires unique contribution
 - Students need to do real work together to achieve learning goal
- Representation
 - Group members are responsible for ensuring all members of the group meet the learning goals.
 - Peers can present information in alternate ways.
- Action/expression
 - The group is accountable for achieving its goals
 - Each member is accountable for contributing his/her share of the work.
 - Group members assess how well they are achieving their goals and maintaining effective working relationships.

Challenge: Assessing Group Work

- Grading
 - Individual or group?
- Providing Feedback
 - Meaningful
 - What each learner needs to affirm and/or extend learning



Strategies:

- Engagement
 - Each group member needs to contribute meaningfully
 - Each group member needs to participate
 - Everyone has own notes
 - Everyone active in learning
- Representation
 - Can be different
 - Needs to afford opportunity to meet learning goals
 - Structure for complete learning
- Action/expression
 - Group practice, individual summative assessment
 - All group members able to explain and demonstrate

Challenge: Group Management

- What is the group composition
- Students feeling disconnected

Strategies:

- Engagement
 - Survey students
 - Students self-select
- Representation
 - Provide examples of group roles, contracts, and agreements
 - Rubric for collaborative group work
- Action/expression
 - Flexibility
 - Group creates a portfolio of artifacts

Questions and Challenges

- Do you have any questions?
- What is a challenge you have? Let's work through it!
 - Engagement
 - Representation
 - Action/Expression

Thank you

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