

Benefits of group work

Good group work has great potential for the following reasons:

- Students are encouraged to become active rather than passive learners by developing collaborative and co-operative skills, and lifelong learning skills.
- It encourages the development of critical thinking skills.
- It requires the establishment of an environment of support, trust and co-operative learning can be nurtured.
- It promotes student learning and achievement.
- Students have the opportunity to learn from and to teach each other.
- Deep rather than surface approaches to learning are encouraged.
- It facilitates greater transfer of previous knowledge and learning.
- The focus is on student centred approach to teaching and learning, and assessment.
- Students are involved in their own learning.
- It enhances social skills and interactions.
- Learning outcomes are improved.
- Large numbers of students can be catered for and work on task simultaneously.
- Interaction and co-operation on a micro scale is facilitated thus decreasing a sense of isolation felt by some.
- Quiet students have an opportunity to speak and be heard in small groups thus overcoming the anonymity and passivity associated with large groups.
- Teaching, learning and assessment options are increased.
- Teaching effectiveness and efficiency increases, and as a result there is increased enjoyment of teaching by staff (and students).
- Students get the chance to work on large projects (larger in scope or complexity than individual tasks).
- Students from diverse backgrounds are provided with the opportunity to be heard, share experiences and skills, and to participate in unique ways (may provide a new perspective).
- It can save time and requires a shared workload.
- Alternative ideas and points of view can be generated.
- It provides a structured learning experience that can prepare students for the realities and diversity of the workplace, working with people with different skills, cultures, approaches and from different places.
- Students develop and practice skills in: decision making, problem solving, values clarification, communication, critical thinking, negotiation, conflict resolution, and teamwork.
- The opportunity exists to nurture and develop Graduate Student Attributes.
- It makes the Unit of Study challenging, interesting, motivating, engaging, and fun (for everyone)!