

Study Groups

Why should you join a study group?

Professors do not have enough time
Students are too shy to ask questions in large classes
Large amounts of required reading
You'll actually have to study

Benefits of Study Groups

- Help with confusing material
- Learning is more fun
- Meet interesting people
- Better relationship with professor
- You'll have an encouragement group
- You'll have the opportunity to teach
- Get help with missed material
- Get specific questions answered
- Develop self Discipline
- Learn Problem-solving skills
- Learn Teamwork skills

What to Do at Your First Meeting

- Fill out study group form with members...DO NOT lose this information
- Get to know one another. Take some time to ask each other's names, majors, hobbies etc.
- Find a meeting place...one that has few distractions
- Schedule a next meeting...do not say well plan one....schedule the time and place NOW!
- Talk more...give your group a name
- Come up with at least five group goals for the study group

What NOT to do

- Waste most of the time with small talk
- Participate
- Expect others to get your notes all of the time
- Miss meetings
- Discourage others from participating
- Dominate the group

What to do at Other Meetings

- Go over your group goals

- Establish what you want to accomplish at the meeting
- Discuss key concepts from lecture
- Work on assignments
- Study for tests or exams
- Discuss possibly test questions and answers
- Look over copies from past exams
- Set aside some time for small talk
- Determine time and place for next meeting
- Assign duties for next meeting

Group Members Roles in the Group

- LISTEN!!! Do not interrupt. Respond to comments and/or suggestions.
- Do not accept confusion. If you do not understand, do not be afraid to ask for clarification
- Do not split up the work. This leads to many problems. Make sure everyone is making an effort.
- Allow yourself and others to think aloud.
- Be aware of time constraints.
- When your group gets stuck...summarize what you have already done. This creates new opportunities for group members. Allow for people to discuss how the group is working. Be direct, honest, and clam.
- Listen to concerns about the group.
- Save the small talk when the work is finished. This allows for group cohesion without interfering with the task at hand.

Common Problems and Suggestions

- Lack of Interaction - Encourage feedback, discuss the dynamics of your group
- Physical Arrangement - Make sure everyone is facing each other, make sure the group is not too large
- Some students not interested - Talk directly to this student. Ask for his/her feedback.
- Some students dominate - Address this student privately. Many dominant speakers do not realize they are dominating the group.
- Little or no direction - Stay on Track. Re-visit the group's goals. Set new goals/objectives.