

TEACHING PRACTICES TO ENCOURAGE MUTUAL AID AND GROUP WORK

Refer to PRACTICAL SHEET n°:
PP46

Use these TOOLBOX resources:
Moodle, Edmodo, Future Learn

Adaptation exercises

How to boost group work

Find a good motor:

We are too used to individual work and individual valorisation. There is a need to put real value in working as a group.

- Whenever you implement a new group work activity, make sure to highlight the quality of the work as a group over the quality of the individual contribution.
- Students like to communicate, which is an important component of group work. Make sure to work on the quality of that communication.

Make students reflect on the importance and benefits of group work as well

- Ask the students to write their thoughts down individually.
- Then, divide the class into smaller groups and let them discuss the importance of group work.

Contextualise the exercise with real-life situation to give it more impact

While individual work is important, most people will be asked to work in a group, or in a partnership with other people. Working with others efficiently will be very useful to the students in real life.

How to boost group work

Find a nice format of exercise

There is a plethora of tools (digital or not) that can help form a community and that encourage exchanges and solidarity amongst students. Explore LMS as well to find other group work supporting platforms and apps.

The environment can also be adapted to the activity of group work. (groups of working tables, talking circle, two sides for a debate, etc)

Remember:

- Foster complementarity
- Promote communication
- Put value to mutual aid
- Mix up the groups
- Multiply the formats and activities
- Ensure that pupils respect each other

Practical questions:

For each group work activity, how would you promote complementarity and communication?

How would you adapt these methods to your own teaching practice?

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Group Work reflections

Reflection: What is the purpose of group work?

How would you define the concept of "group work"?

Why are we using group work in class?

- ...
- ...
- ...

What makes a group work effectively?

How would you divide your class to have the best results of group work?

What is effective group work?

What do you consider to be effective group work? Circle your answers.

- The group reached its goal in the allotted time
- All group members participated in the effort equally
- All group members communicated and participated to the effort to the best of their abilities
- Each member had a specific role, and there was a leader
- The group took more time than allotted to solve the task, but all students understood and participated
- Some of the members reached the goal while the others didn't
- The group solved the task in another way than was provisioned

Comment on your choices.

How would you go about promoting the aspects you think are more important?

- Find a way to make group work count in the final report of the student
- Find three ways to reward good group work that are motivating to the student