

Focused Discussion/Study Groups

Cooperative Learning

Group Size: 4-5 students

Roles and Responsibilities in the Group:

- **Group Leader:**

1. Starts the discussing and keeps it going. *"Lets start with this idea. What do you think?"*
2. Keeps the group on track. *"We can come back to that if we have time."*
3. Directs the sequence of steps. *"What should we do next?"*
4. Insures that everyone Participates. *"Jim, you have been quiet, what do you think?"*
5. Keeps track of time. *"We need to move on."*

- **The Reporter:**

1. Takes the data and writes coherent reactions and summaries - to be turned in.
2. Checks on understanding. *"Explain to us what you think."*
3. Insures that all members agree. *"Do we understand this point?"*
4. Summarizes conclusions. *"So, here is what we have decided."*

- **The Skeptic:**

1. Tries to find holes in any arguments and reasoning. *"Why is that?"*
2. Keeps group from coming to agreement too quickly. *"What other possibilities are there?"*
3. Insures that all possibilities are explored. *"Lets look at it a new way."*
4. Suggest alternative ideas. *"I am not sure that we are on the right track."*

Rules for groups:

Groups will remain together throughout the course.

Groups will work together on the field trip.

Roles and responsibilities must rotate often.

Groups may expel a member if another group agrees to take the expelled student.

Methods of operation.

Step 1. Formulate possible responses to the problem individually on paper.

Step 2. Share responses and ideas with the discussion/study group.

Step 3. Listen carefully to each response.

Step 4. Use group processes to create an new group answer.

Step 5. Ensure that everyone in the group understands and can explain the consensus answer or result

The following Interpersonal skills are very important in this class:

1. Trust.
2. Clear communication.
3. Acceptance and support of each other as unique individuals.
4. Constructive resolution of conflicts.
5. Reflection on what has taken place.