

Making Group Activities Work

Ideas for avoiding the 'free riders' syndrome:

- Randomly assigning students to work teams
- Assigning specific responsibilities to each member of the team so the project cannot be completed unless all members contribute
- Rotate tasks on a regular basis

Individual piece

• Design tasks so participants must be familiar with the global assignment, but maintain 'expert control' of

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• Let students know that you, the teacher, will choose who will rep encourage all to always be prepared for the task

Provide opportunities to practice team skills

- Active listening strategies
- Effective argumentation
- Role practice

Create an atmosphere of interdependence

- Create roles for students that require collaboration for project to s
- Design grading strategies for individuals as well as groups
- · Assess group processes for the purpose of continual improvemer 3. Peer evaluation of individual's contribution to the team project

Provide groups with specific guidelines for completing a project

Organize information to reflect the goals of the course Describe desired outcomes

Set time limits

Encourage students to contribute to information organizationles that team members can choose

· Specify strategies for rotating roles

Provide opportunities for communication between groups in an shouts it is information, reporting out

· Give students directions for working when they are alone or offli

Make members accountable