

Student Wellbeing Classroom Resource

Term-long Group Work Activities



Social
Connectedness



Peer Support



Professional
Development

Description

Group work provides an important space for students to build relationships with one another and seek support from their peers. Designing courses that encourage students to work closely and consistently with one group of peers throughout the term can foster stable support communities where students can support one another while advancing academically. This is particularly valuable for students who would otherwise feel disconnected from their peers. Group work can also help to build emotional intelligence skills and prepare students for future employment where they will likely be a member of broader teams.

Implementation

- Place students into groups at the start of term.
- Keep the group as diverse as possible. Place international students with another international student so that they do not feel so isolated.
- Spend the first 2-3 weeks teaching students how to effectively work in a team.
- Design frequent group work activities where students are encouraged to work consistently with the same group members over the duration of the term.
- Direct students to a platform where they can have group discussion outside class (e.g. a private channel on TEAMS)
- Explicitly encourage students to work collaboratively and support one another. It is good to highlight this at the beginning of term and remind students every few weeks.
- Design assignments around group work.

Evidence of effectiveness

- Majority of students agree that they felt part of the learning community.
- Vibrant group discussions in class and in digital channels outside of class.
- Students notify academics that they are concerned about the wellbeing of one of their group members and/or seek support for them.
- Groups may study together and support each other without relying on the course coordinator for help.

This resource has been developed by the Student Wellbeing Community of Practice (CoP).
To learn more about this CoP, please contact the EF Team: EF@UNSW.edu.au