

Facilitating Study Groups: The Student as learner and Leader



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Topics for Discussion

- Basics
 - Memory
 - Underlying philosophy
- Training
- Conducting a Session
- Benefits
- Non-facilitated groups



Memory

- We forget very quickly
 - review new material early and often
- Attention and Focus
 - distractions inhibit comprehension and learning
- Multisensory Learning
 - where we process it, we access it—linking is essential



Underlying Philosophy of Study Groups

- Reinforce learned materials
- Broaden possibilities of discussion
- Increase classroom participation

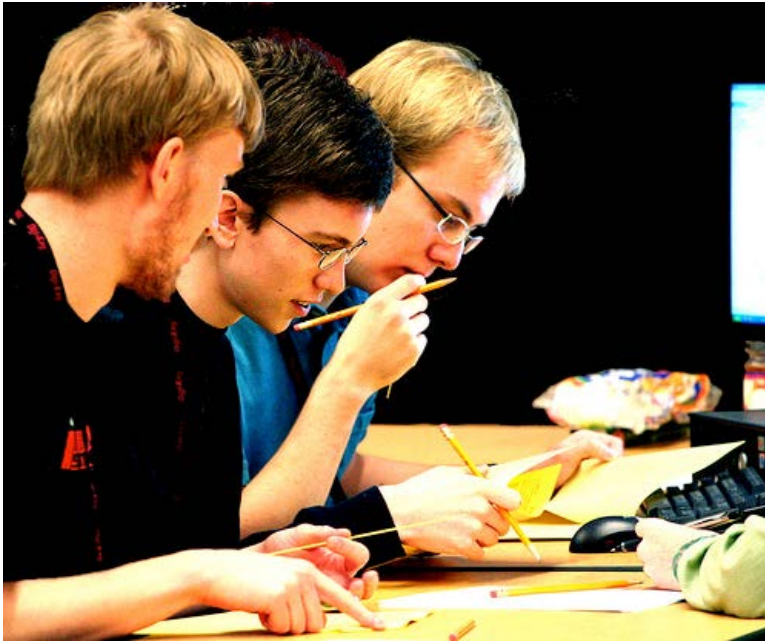


Training



- Communication
- Group dynamics
 - Focus and Refocus
- Using Study Skills
- Assignment sharing
 - The Learner/Leader
- Fuzzy notions

Scaffolding



- The concept
 - Find individual levels of competence
 - Demonstrate next step[s]
 - Watch and suggest
 - Mutual responsibility=self-reliance

Timing

- Offer frequent sessions
- Organize resources
- Group work
- Group quizzes



Conducting A Session

- Shared Responsibility



- Make sure all participants have done the work assigned
- Make sure all participants are engaged

Conducting A Session

- Communication



- Talk about class issues that concern the group
- Work to each individual's strengths.
- Make and share copies of summary sheets
- Establish time limits if necessary
- Ask for help

Conducting A Session

- Focus on student identified questions
- Use the knowledge of each student to answer questions
- Bring all discussions back to the topic



Benefits of Study Groups

- Student centered and student controlled
 - Group members schedule study sessions
 - Each group decides the terms of participation
 - Groups are "self-paced"



Benefits of Study Groups



- **Communication:**
 - Group members must interact
 - Group communication offers different ways to understand material
 - Group interaction allows for observation of other learning behaviors
 - Groups are authentic and stimulate a variety of problem solving opportunities

Benefits of Study Groups

- Shared Responsibility:
 - Each member has the opportunity to contribute
 - Each member can construct individual understanding
 - Each member can learn new cognitive strategies
 - Each member can develop critical and creative thinking strategies



An Alternative: Non-facilitated Study Groups

- Instructors identify the courses and sections
 - A staff member may go to the classroom on the first or second day of the semester to go over guidelines
- Students use tutoring facility
 - Groups recommended by instructor
 - May earn extra credit
- Students on their own
 - The tutoring facility may act administratively to ensure accurate attendance data for faculty and to offer a place for the study group to meet.



Thank You

- If you have more questions, please feel free to contact me:
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