Activity: What Are Groups Good For?

• What kinds of tasks would you ask students to do in groups in class? Be specific!
• Two minutes to write (silent & solo)
• Five minutes to share with your group
Group Formation Guidelines

• Avoid initial subgroups
• Diverse: maximize talent, spread liabilities
• Teacher forms groups, not students
• More relevant to higher-stakes activities
Team Development

• Analyze complex issue ➤ concrete decision
• Factors that promote team development
  • Proximity
  • Accountability
  • Discussion
  • Immediate feedback
• Make thinking visible
Recent news

Flooding in MW

Defining ecosystem

Source

Wetlands 3 min.

Group disc (validate E.S.)

Activity: what do you depend on E.S.? (5)

Group share (1)

Presentation - ecosystem impact

Go through daily activity - how can you reduce environmental impact?

Wrap-up (5)
Activity: Website Ranking

- Amazon.com
- AOL
- Blogger.com
- CNN - Cable News Network
- Craigslist.org
- EBay
- Facebook
- Google
- Microsoft Network
- Myspace
- Wikipedia
- Yahoo!
- YouTube

What are the top 5 in the US?
Activity: Website Ranking

1. Google
2. Yahoo!
3. Myspace
4. YouTube
5. Facebook

Does your ranking diverge? What surprises you or what would you argue against?
Cooperative Activities

- Same info, same tasks
- Roles to facilitate participation
  - Facilitator
  - Recorder
  - Time keeper
  - Reality checker
  - Spy
Combining Activities

- Different info, same task
- Requires all to participate
- Strip story example
Cooperate + Combine = Jigsaw
Activity: Group Guidelines

• Develop a list of the three main problems that you have experienced (or witnessed) in course where small groups were used for in-class activities.

• Develop a brief list of rules or guidelines to avoid or overcome these problems
Activity: Group Guidelines 2

• In your new group, each member should present a summary of the problems & rules
• As a group, prioritize/conflate/restate the issues presented and develop a list of guidelines
Assessing Group Work

- Ticket in
- Specify criteria
- Include students in developing criteria
- Written “Division of Labor” report
- Peer evaluation % of grade
References


Hewlett Project, University of Texas. http://www.utexas.edu/academic/cte/hewlett/


