Activity: What Are Groups Good For?

• What kinds of tasks do you assign to groups in your teaching? Be specific!
• One minute to write (silent & solo)
• Five minutes to share with your group
Avoid subgroups
Heterogeneous
Instructor-formed
Conditions

Decision task
Proximity
Visible thinking
Accountability
Immediate feedback
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: same info, same task

- Facilitator
- Recorder
- Spokesperson
- Time keeper
- Reality checker
- Spy
- Language police
Combining: different info, same task

• Strip story example
Do
Clarify, encourage, circulate

Don’t
Leave, dominate, correct everything
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
- “Division of Labor” report
- Peer evaluation
Credits
Students at computers Hugh Crumley
Students at whiteboard Hugh Crumley
Bigfoot & UFO photo http://www.boru-ufo.com
Walking Sasquatch photo Emilie Eagan

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