

TEAMWORK AND SMALL GROUP ASSESSMENT FOR LEGAL EDUCATION

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WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES: **AFTER THIS PROGRAM YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND...**

1. The rationale for incorporating group work into law school courses.
2. The essential principles for forming groups.
3. The need to help students develop interpersonal skills to work together effectively.
4. The elements of one systematic approach to group work.

WHY DO GROUP WORK IN LEGAL EDUCATION?

- Necessary, because inevitable in law students' future
- Deeper engagement and learning with material
- Groups tend to outperform individuals in quality of work, especially where groups are diverse in skills and personal characteristics.
- Brings out students who often fade into background.

HOW TO INCORPORATE GROUP WORK

➤ Designing Group Work

➤ Forming Groups

➤ Emphasizing/Teaching Skills for Working Effectively in Groups

DESIGNING GROUP WORK

- Backward Design—Dean Debra Moss Vollweiler’s Presentation on Curriculum Building
 - Concepts
 - Skills
 - Values
- Time considerations
- Calling on and using different perspectives

FORMING GROUPS

- Diversity, diversity, diversity—break up friends, break up “cliques”
- Small—ideal size? In person 5-7 members; fewer online—3-4 members.
- Student Survey
- Online tools for group formation

TEACHING STUDENTS HOW TO WORK WELL WITH OTHERS

- Basics—the importance of names.
- Process/procedure
- Listening
- Giving feedback
- Managing conflict

ONE MODEL: TEAM-BASED LEARNING

- Team Based Learning Collaborative—great direction
 - Individual Preparation (outside of class)
 - Individual Readiness Assessment Test (IRAT)
 - Group Readiness Assessment Test (GRAT)
 - Application Problems
 - Appeal Process
 - Peer Evaluation

WANT TO TRY IT? OK!!!

