Staying Connected: A toolkit to support students' groupwork

Maxine Swingler: School of Psychology & Neuroscience
Gayle Pringle Barnes: College of Social Sciences

Project TEAM: Maxine Swingler, Lara Wehbe, Gayle Pringle Barnes, Heather Cleland-Woods, Noor Sabha, Valentine Conlan, Ellie Buglass, George Fournarakis
What we will cover today

- Common issues in group work
- About the staying connected toolkit
- Activities to engage students in the resources
- Group roles
- Planning group meetings
- If you have questions just ask
Challenges in Group work

- What aspects of group work do you find most challenging?
- What aspects of supervising student group work do you find most challenging?

www.menti.com 49 13 75 5
Key themes:
- Scheduling, communication, participation
- Supporting & assessing
- Transition to online group work

Staying Connected: a Toolkit for Effective Groupwork

1. Work in partnership with students to evaluate current group work practices and resources (Graham & Pringle Barnes, 2020)

2. Co-create recommendations on what is working and gaps in provision

3. Collaborate effectively in an online and blended environment

• Student led development of resources that support the:
  • Process: e.g. reflection, communication, problem solving.
  • Product: contributions to assessed group work
  • Delivery to students and staff across subject disciplines
Analysis & Recommendations

Organising Tasks, Roles & Goals
• Process rather than product (Reid & Garson, 2017)

Participation & Reflective process
• Fear of unequal contributions (Chang & Brickman, 2018)

Communication & Collaboration
• Diversity in groupwork (Mittelmeir, 2018)
Staying Connected Groupwork Toolkit

- Mind Map: How to use the resource?
- Getting Started: Group Organisation
- Communication & Collaboration
- Reflecting on Group work
- Online Tools to Support Group work
How are Students using the Resources?

Total views since August 2022:
- Getting started/group organisation
- Addressing Issues/Collaboration
- Reflection and using online tools

Total views - since August 2022:
- Sways
- Checklists
- Videos
- Infographics
Student Feedback: Questionnaire

- **Question Theme**
  - Applying what I've learned: 5.0
  - Organisation: 5.4
  - Reflection & learning: 5.0
  - Communication: 4.8
  - Group roles & contributions: 4.7

- **Mean score**
The actioning tasks and resources in the "Getting Started" section was helpful because I could see literal examples of the ways I can navigate and manage group work."

"From reflection I have learnt what works well and what doesn't, allowing me to bring it forward to a new group project."

"Ice breakers for getting to know each other in the first place."

"The cultural section ... stopped me from taking things too personally."

"We used the video on team roles to effectively delegate different aspects of group work at the start of the course."

"......more reminders that these resources exist as I read them at the start and then completely forgot about them!"

"....a slightly 'fast-tracked' version or a pointer towards the bits they will find essential..."
Challenges in Group work (review)

• What aspects of group work do you find most challenging?
• What aspects of supervising student group work do you find most challenging?
Activity : Group Roles & Organisation

1. Identify key tips *your* students could employ to:
   • Get to know each other
   • Allocate group roles
   • Improve group organisation

2. Resources
   • [Getting started](https://sway.office.com/ySmyUOIlayFSem3T?ref=Link)
   • [How to plan and structure a meeting](https://sway.office.com/ySmyUOIlayFSem3T?ref=Link)
   • [Templates for online groupwork](https://sway.office.com/ySmyUOIlayFSem3T?ref=Link)

3. Share on www.menti.com **CODE 49 13 75 5**
Tips for your students

www.menti.com 49 13 75 5
Any Questions?

Share the Moodle and sways – anyone can access with the enrolment key (groupwork)
You can duplicate the sways and edit for your own teaching (Cite original authors and CC licence)
We would love to hear about how you and your students use the resources.
Maxine.swingler@glasgow.ac.uk
gayle.pringlebarnes@glasgow.ac.uk
How to Access the Site

Go to https://glasgowonline.gla.ac.uk

- Click on the link sent to your email address.
- Browse courses
- College of Science and Engineering
- School of Psychology
- Staying Connected
- When prompted enter groupwork for the enrolment key

