

Study Skills: Why do group work?

Video transcript

This video covers why we do group work. Group work has become an important means of assessment in university and many subjects require students to collaborate to achieve tasks. This brings its own challenges, and learners can often resist the experience. They complain about lazy team members, uneven labour distribution, clashes in work ethic and personalities, and the inconvenience of scheduling meetings between busy students. So why should we work in groups, and how does it benefit us?

Developing your team skills is essential to success in your studies and future career. Teamwork is very common in modern education and workplaces. Effective teamwork requires flexibility, negotiation, and compromise. You need to work with people with differing backgrounds, expectations, and experience. It requires you to resolve disagreements, handle criticism, and work with people who are different to you. It also tests your organisational skills, ability to set and keep deadlines, and capacity to coordinate individual responsibilities. Learning how to operate successfully in a team will make your studies and work life much smoother.

Teamwork is also a powerful learning tool. An old English proverb says, “Two heads are better than one.” Working in groups allows members to help each other in areas where they need it. It is often easier to understand things when another student explains them. Interacting with others makes us more likely to activate higher order thinking skills. Research suggests that learning is more effective when it involves collaborating with others. Each team member has different strengths and weaknesses and can complement each other. Team learning can often be a more potent and complete form of education.

Group work is also a necessity for many tasks that are too large for an individual to carry out alone. It allows you to develop or specialise in a particular skill area and to relate to others who have different specialisations. This kind of collaboration is common in the professional world. The creation of the first iPhone, for example, was a highly collaborative effort involving a large and diverse team. The core team at Apple numbered in the hundreds, but when including all the external partners and suppliers, the total number of people involved likely reached into the thousands.

Overall, teamwork is a highly sought-after skill by employers. If you can demonstrate experience and competence with teamwork, you will be a more desirable candidate for employment after graduation.

To sum up, this video has covered why we do group work. Continue learn more or contact a Language and Learning Advisor.