

THE ADVANTAGES OF GROUP WORK

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One of the most studied and used teaching strategies in the country is the utilization of group work in the classroom. The advantages of collaborative learning on academic achievement, communication abilities, and confidence have been demonstrated in several research studies.

As generated from the University of Waterloo, Group work can be an effective method to motivate students, encourage active learning, and develop key critical-thinking, communication, and decision-making skills. But without careful planning and facilitation, group work can frustrate students and instructors and feel like a waste of time.

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With focus on the advantages of group work, here are some of its benefits.

The saying "two heads are better than one" is undoubtedly true in some cases. Researchers discovered that when students may collaborate, for instance on a problem-solving activity, they are more inclined to try out several approaches to the problem. Positive and negative comments can also help them learn more quickly.

Additionally, students learn better when they debate and challenge one another's viewpoints and justifications since this enables them to create a variety of approaches to complete a task. According to research, doing this encourages cognitive reorganization, which improves academic, social, and emotional learning.

Working in a group is not always easy. Therefore, achieving a decent score may be incredibly fulfilling and motivating when students are able to overcome all the tension, stress, and long hours that come with group assignments.

Moreover, students who participate in group discussions and work on the given problem-solving activity are very committed to finding a solution. Students who were more involved in the solution-finding process express greater levels of satisfaction with their contribution to the choice than those who weren't. This results in a more favorable portrayal of their collective learning experience.

Students can investigate complex tasks that they normally wouldn't have done if they were working alone thanks to teamwork, which improves both their individual and group learning. This is so that they can experience different viewpoints, modes of thought, and dispute while working in groups.

This offers pupils the chance to develop their communication and teamwork abilities, as well as a greater capacity for idea generation. This supports a more all-encompassing approach to learning and can boost group productivity.

Certainly, group work can bring several advantages. The teacher must then know when to execute this strategy for the benefit of teacher-learning situation.

References:

Implementing Group Work in the Classroom | Centre for Teaching Excellence (uwaterloo.ca) retrieved from <https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/catalogs/tip-sheets/implementing-group-work-classroom>