

Working with Study Partners & Groups

Key Components of Productive Study Group Sessions

Set Study Agenda

Each participant suggest topics to review, practice or clarify

Allow Time To Vent

Take a few minutes, if needed, at the start of the session to vent frustrations, stress, etc. But put a cap on this; complaining about your classes won't help you learn the material better!

Review Material

Based on the study agenda, compare notes from lectures and readings, filling in any gaps you may find.

Take Turns Teaching

- Demonstrate a skill or concept using a whiteboard (or piece of paper)
 - Draw a concept map, or write key points of topic. Explain each item.
- Explain a concept, allowing others to ask questions as you go.

Generate Questions And Take Turns Answering Them

- Create higher-level thinking questions that require you to apply skills, analyze a situation, synthesize concepts.
- For essay exams, anticipate possible questions and together, create an outline for an essay.
- Quiz each other on basic recall facts, such as vocabulary, dates, formulas.

For further reading
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General Group Guidelines

Forming a Group

Send an email to class listserv, or ask professor to help facilitate forming groups, or ask a student you've observed in class who you think might be a good match. Consider limiting the size of your group to no more than five people.

Seek Study Partners Who Are Committed To Learn

You don't need to be at the same skill level, but all members must be committed to help each other learn. Think critically when considering working with a friend; are you certain you can stay focused and productive?

Meet Regularly

While meeting once or twice before an exam will certainly help, starting early in the semester and working consistently together will make a big difference in mastering course content.

Work as a Team

The best groups are collaborative, not competitive. Agree to not judge each other's skill level. Agree that all questions are accepted.

Come Prepared to Teach and Learn

You must actively participate in order to benefit both yourself and the group. This means you attend class and keep up with the readings and assignments.

- Study groups are not the place for substantial remediation. If you need this, consider tutoring or attending instructor's office hours.

