Southern New Hampshire University

Group Activities

You will be asked to work together in groups to complete some of the assignments and activities. Groups are established prior to the beginning of week two by the instructor. Group discussions or interactions are to take place in the Group Discussion forums under Course Menu>Discussions. Since learning groups are the foundation of online classes, it is important that you have a good experience being a member of a virtual team in a collaborative learning environment. The mixture of individual and group-oriented activities can provide a variety of contexts within which all students may learn skills and concepts and demonstrate their mastery.

Benefits of Group Work for Students:

- Provides experience working as a geographically different team, which is common in many fields
- Promotes learning rather than teaching
- Supports collaborative approaches
- Encourages deeper approaches to learning and critical thinking

How to Work in a Group: Dividing Roles and Responsibilities

The group members may wish to engage in some sort of icebreaking team-building activity. This may involve asking each person for initial comments about how he or she visualizes the common project. Members can volunteer or be voted in by the other members to assume several responsibilities such as the project manager or leader, recorder, editor, or spokesperson. The collaborative and cooperative activities s will include leading the discussion, allocating portions of the work, recording the team's conclusion, summarizing the work, etc. In a group project, group members may assume the responsibility of preparing different sections of the project. This may lead to poorly organized deliverables that suffer from badly executed transitions, consistency of style problems, poor graphics, and other difficulties. If one group member serves as an editor (or co-editors) many of these problems can be alleviated.

Group Evaluation
Your contributions to this group project will be graded both individually and as a member of the group based on the feedback from the Group Evaluation Form.

Resources

Below are links that offer useful tips on how to work effectively in a group:

Working in Groups

Learning Effectively through Group Work