Implementing group work in your teaching

December 7th 2018

A TRADITION OF INDEPENDENT THINKING

UCC

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Overview

1: Overview of Group work practices
2: Update on implementing module changes on DMIS
3: Exemplars
4: Summary of policy

UCC Group work champions

Griffin Murray	Centre Manager, Adult Continuing Education
Norma Browne	Co-ordinator of Disability Studies, ACE
Kenneth Burns	School of Applied Social Studies
Seán Ó Conaill	School of Law
Olive McCarthy	Department of Accounting and Finance
Daniel Blackshields	Department of Economics
Michael Murphy	Department of Management & Marketing
Joe Bogue	Department of Food Business & Development
Anne Holohan	Dental School
Ciara O'Toole	Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences
Yvonne Pennisi	Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy
JJ Keating	School of Pharmacy
Aine Horgan	School of Nursing and Midwifery
Niall O'Leary	School of Microbiology
Carmel Shortiss	School of Microbiology

Definition

…"group work" involves students working collaboratively on a particular project, assignment or task and where the assessment is based on the output of the groupwork and / or the group work process (i.e. assessment of participation in the group).

UCC Policy on Designing, Delivering & Assessing Group Work, April 2017

Why bother with group work?

1: Peer learning can improve the overall quality of student learning

- Students learn from each other and benefit from activities that require them to apply their knowledge in a new context

2: Group work can help develop generic skills

- Teamwork skills

- Analytic and cognitive skills

- Collaborative skills

- Organisational and time management

3: Group work may reduce the workload in assessing, grading and providing feedback to students

3 key stages in group work

Group formation

- Group selection and composition

- Group size

Group management

- Preparation

- Management of emerging issues

- Effective disciplinary procedures

Assessment

- Assess product, process or both

- Assess group, individual or combination of both

McCrea, R. et al (2016) *Facilitating group work: a guide to good practice*

When designing group work

Groups thrive most when their task is **challenging** and closely **related to** the course content, course objectives, and **students' experiences and interests**.
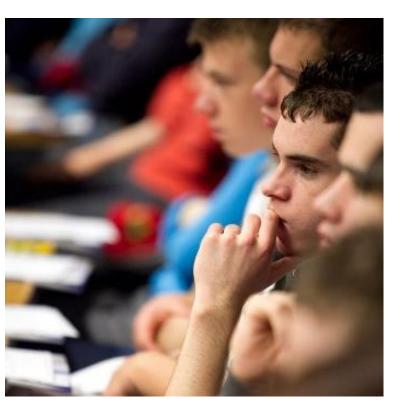
Like all assignments, need to clearly articulate objectives, define the task, clarify expectations, model high quality work and communicate performance criteria.

Specifically related to groupwork:

- Ensure the task is better suited to group work than to individual work i.e. **foster interdependence**

- Support students to **develop group work skills**

- Ensure the assessment process has a **balance between assessment of the end product and the process**

Implementing module changes on DMIS

A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING

UCC

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Some dates...

11 Jan 2019

DMIS closes. No further module changes can be submitted.

29 Mar 2019

Draft Book of Modules and Calendar 2019/20 available online to users for review

4-18 April 2019

DMIS will re-open to allow essential changes to modules

Policy implementation plan

Department/School module report circulated

Local champions support implementation of changes to modules

Modules changes submitted for approval on DMIS

Feb

Mar

4-18 April

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Group work exemplars

A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

SS6108 Child and Family Welfare 1

**Module coordinators:
Dr Kenneth Burns and Caroline Shore,
School of Applied Social Studies**

Enquiries: k.burns@ucc.ie / c.shore@ucc.ie

This module employs a blend of enquiry-based learning and reflective practice to develop social work students' assessment skills, report writing, and critical use of practice evidence to inform professional decision-making. This is achieved through a groupwork assignment and short individual reflective piece.

MG2902 Market Research

Module coordinator:
Dr Michael Murphy,
Dept of Management and Marketing

In this module students undertake a group market research project which culminates in a research report and presentation. The group is required to keep a group project diary recording who has attended group meetings, the items discussed, the work allocated to and, subsequently, submitted by, each team member. It is at the discretion of the lecturer to award different grades to members of the same project group, based on their recorded contribution. The group diary is handed up to the tutor at each tutorial and is not submitted with the final research report.

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

CT2001 Introduction to Research Methods

Module coordinator:
Dr Helen Lynch, School of Clinical Therapies

To encourage good group work processes, the students sign a group work student contract, and they utilise an online space for submission of meeting minutes/SWOTs which also contribute to grades.

EH1010 Introduction to Public Health

Module coordinator:
Dr Fiona McLeod, School of Public Health

This module includes a Learning Outcome that makes explicit mention of the need to collaborate with each other. Students work in groups to create a poster and provide an oral presentation.

MB3016 Methods in Microbiology

Module coordinator:
Dr Niall O'Leary, Microbiology

Related slides:
www.ucc.ie/en/media/support/cirtl/GroupWork_Microbiology.pdf

PF3009 Gastrointestinal, Hepatic and Endocrine Systems

Module coordinator:
Dr JJ Keating, School of Pharmacy

Related slides:
www.ucc.ie/en/media/support/cirtl/GroupWork_Chemistry.pdf

UCC group work policy

https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/support/academicsecretariat/policies/Academic-ACTLGroupWork-FinalAB05-04-17.pdf

A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

× Unfair marks
× Free riders
× Differing standards among group members
× Parity of opportunity

✓ Promotes higher order learning
✓ Authentic form of assessment
✓ Develop key graduate attributes
✓ Central to certain pedagogies

General principles on group work

1: Clear module objectives and learning outcomes communicated effectively to students

2: Clear statement of assessment method(s) communicated effectively to students

How will the input of the group members be assessed?

3: Clarity around how groups are formed

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

General principles on group work

4: Timely and informative feedback for students

5: Opportunities for students to comment on experience in the group

6: Processes to address any issues/conflicts arising during a group work process

General principles on group work

7: Feedback mechanism on student experience of module

8: Support and collaboration among staff involved in group work activities

9: Due attention to relevant policies, codes of conduct etc.

Group work

Review UCC's group work checklist

Consider how this relates to your existing group work activities or how it might inform the development of group work activities in your module/programme.

Report back to group