Working in Groups
a.k.a
The Rest of Your Life

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Outline

- Group Success
- Roles
- Intragroup Communication
- Intergroup Communication
  - Writing
  - Presentations
- Questions
Group Success

Effective

- Range of individuals who contribute in different ways
- Clear goals
- Supportive, informal atmosphere
- Discussion and active listening

Ineffective

- Silent and/or overbearing members
- Dismissive attitudes
- Arguments instead of disagreements
- Decisions do not warrant discussion
- No delegation of roles
Roles

ANATOMY OF A GROUP MEETING PRESENTATION

- Pulled all-nighter. Finished slides 5 minutes before meeting started.
- Trying to come up with insightful question that will impress advisor.
- First year. Only person actually paying attention. Has no clue what's going on.
- Relieved she doesn't have to explain why she hasn't done anything this week.
- Starving. Thought there'd be food at meeting.
- Has written two proposals in his head since meeting started.

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Roles

- Leader / Coordinator
- Note Taker
- Presenter
- Time Keeper

- Project Specific Roles
  - Equipment Manager
  - IT Specialist

Delegate pieces of the project based on these roles to spread the workload, keep group members engaged and take advantage of individual strengths.
Intragroup Communication

Disagreement

- The idea is clearly explained for all members to understand
- Differences of opinion revolve around the idea, not the individual

Argument

- Individuals become defensive and combative
- Reactionary statements abound
- Individuals, rather than ideas, rule the conversation
Intragroup Communication

Constructive Criticism

- Focuses on the present
- Allows for the other party to make a decision
- Identifies the positives
- Reinforces active listening

Dismissal / Ridicule

- Criticism voiced out of self interest or competition
- Dead-end
- Disrespectful
- Judgmental
- One-sided
Writing

Group Prompt

Should first-year students at LSU be required to live on campus?

5 minutes

4-6 written sentences
Writing

Did you...

Delegate responsibilities?
Share ideas openly?
Disagree?
Create and edit drafts?
Presentations

Group Prompt

Should first-year students at LSU be required to live on campus?

5 minutes

Creative visual component

1 minute presentation
Presentations

Did you…
Delegate responsibilities?
Share ideas openly?
Disagree?
Create and edit drafts?