



Ideas for Organizing and Managing Small Groups

Making Decisions about Group Size

- ❖ maximizes participation
- ❖ higher rate of talking and listening
- ❖ less noisy than a larger group
- ❖ flexibility to combine dyads into groups of four

Groups of Three or Four

- ❖ adds greater resources to each group
- ❖ increases capacity for greater student diversity (learning style, varying contributions, areas of interest, etc.)

Groups of Five or More

- ❖ can lead to some students being passive
- ❖ can be noisier
- ❖ participation can decrease

Building in Accountability

Individual Accountability Within the Group

- ★ All members sign off on the group assignment
- ★ Individual group members work together but complete an individual task which is assessed individually
- ★ Individual assessments are completed for each group member
- ★ Individual homework or products are required in addition to group work
- ★ Group norms are establish which address roles and responsibilities of each group member

Group Accountability

- ★ All group members complete a group evaluation of group function and task completion
- ★ All group members maintain journal or log entries about group work
- ★ Teacher feedback provided on targeted group skills

R. Kronberg, 2002