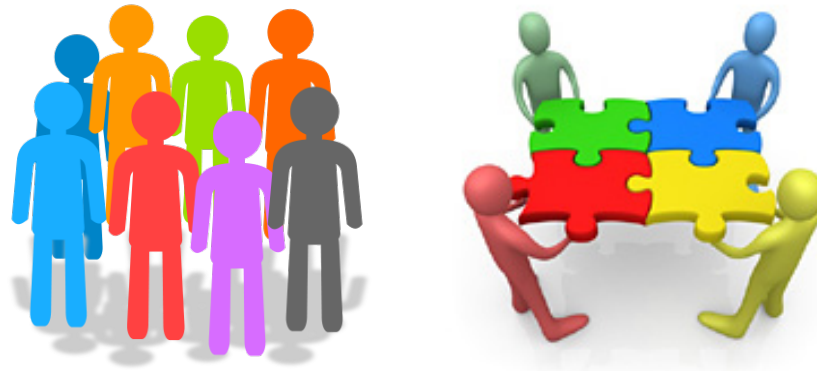


Activity 1: Introduction

Model 1 Group vs Team



Throughout the course, you will need to examine and process information, ask and answer questions, construct your own understanding, and develop new problem-solving skills.

Questions (8 min)

1. What are some advantages to working in groups?

You get to know other people and make new friends. Different people have different backgrounds and skills. The responsibility is shared.

2. What are some disadvantages to working in groups?

Some group members may decide not to contribute. One or two students may be absent. People may not always get along with each other.

3. What is the difference between a group and a team? Come up with a precise answer.

A group is students who just sit by each other and turn in the same assignment. A team actually works together toward a common goal, drawing on each other's strengths.

4. How can working as a team help you accomplish the tasks described in the model? Give at least two specific examples.

Working as a team makes it easier to examine and process information, because different people have different perspectives. We can also develop new problem-solving skills by observing how each other approaches the problems.

Model 2 Team Roles

Decide who will be what role for today's activity. List the names of your team members next to their role.

Manager:
Presenter:
Recorder:
Reflector:

If you have only three people, one may serve as both manager and presenter. If you have five team members, then assign two people to recorder or reflector.

Questions (12 min)

5. What is the difference between **bold** and *italics* on the role cards?

The bold points describe what the responsibilities are. Examples of what that person would say are in italics.

6. Manager: invite each person to explain their role to the team. Recorder: make sure all team members take notes by writing down key phrases next to the table above.

7. What responsibilities do two or more roles have in common?

Both the presenter and the recorder help the team reach consensus. The manager and reflector both monitor how the team is working.

8. For each role, give an example of how someone observing your group would know that a person is not doing their job well.

- Manager: The team is constantly getting behind.
- Presenter: The student doesn't know what to say.
- Recorder: Some team members aren't taking good notes.
- Reflector: The student never comments on team dynamics.