1. My definition of a small group:

A small group is a group of 2 to 20 people who meet regularly, usually once a week, to discuss and work through things relevant to the group (Warren, No Date)(Wikipedia, 30 Nov, 2012). Small groups normally have things in common and work together towards a common goal (Wikipedia, 18 Aug, 2014).

1.a. The size of a group ranges from 2 to 20 (Wikipedia, 30 Nov, 2012). I have never been in a small group greater than 12 when I participated in a student think-tank, with the average group size being 4.

1.b. According to one of my sources, a dyad is not a group as they can’t make a decision if the two have opposing views (Wikipedia, 18 Aug, 2014). Personally, I think groups can be a dyad because the group can, by not making a decision from the two opposing views, find a third, common solution.

1.c. The optimal size for a group is 5 (Margolis, 24 Jan, 2011). I agree with this, as a group size must be odd to achieve a majority, with 3 people not having enough perspective, and 7 people being too many to provide a properly focused decision.

1.d. Members of a group do have to interact on a common goal (Wikipedia, 18 Aug, 2014). A group is not a group without having a common goal to work towards, be that common worship or solving a problem.

1.e. Members of a group do not need to have interpersonal connections, but need to be able to function together (Margolis, 24 Jan, 2011). During my student think-tank, I was not required to know anybody or have anything in common. I was the technology person to provide technology-focused perspective to the group.

1.f. Group norms are customs, habits, and expectation that the group develops over time which influence how the group interacts (Berea College, No Date). I experienced this with my LLC as we created habits of communication and common styles of programming over the past few weeks.

1.g. Group cohesiveness is the attraction to the group by individuals also known as the resistance to leaving the group (Oxford Brookes University, No Date). Advantages of group cohesion are that the group feels very much as one and works well together, retaining members. A disadvantage of group cohesion is the reluctance to leave, which can hinder the individual’s personal growth and hinder the influx of new perspectives to the group. An example of the advantage is my video gaming group I mentioned in question 3. We are very much a group of close friends and feel sad when we do not meet weekly, as with the summer. An example of the disadvantage is the again the think-tank I was in. We had too many marketing students, none of which would leave to make room for another Engineering student to solve the problem we faced. I left shortly after because we could not make a decision with any sort of proper perspective. In short, too much marketing, not enough engineering.

1.h. A group does not need a leader in the classic sense of a final decision maker. A person in a pseudo-leadership role is needed to make sure the group does not lack direction. I have called this the ‘headless chicken syndrome’ for a while now. It is where nobody in the group can make up their mind, or does not want to speak up. This is where the ‘leader’ is required to direct the group. But, this should be the only decision a leader should be making.

1.i. Members of a group do not need to meet face-to-face. An example is my LLC. Both us talk using text, telephone, github, and google hangouts. We are very good at communicating our thought efficiently using these means, and each of us works on things separately and report to each other.

1.j. A small group works together towards a goal. A small group is not merely associated by being in the same room. They have to have a common cause or goal they work towards together. People in a waiting room do not have a common goal they work towards. They have a common goal, maybe to visit the doctor, but not a goal to work towards. If there was, say, a puzzle in the waiting area that they all worked on, then they all have a goal, and are working towards it together.

1.k. It doesn’t seem like a group has to have a specified time to be together to be considered a small group. For me, so long as the group has a common goal and works together to achieve it, no amount of time is required.

Warren, R. (No Date). Life is not meant to be lived alone. Retrieved from: <http://rickwarren.org/connect/what-is-a-small-group->

Wikipedia. (30 Nov, 2012). Small group. Retrieved from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Small_group>

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Margolis, S. (24 Jan, 2011). What is the optimal group size for decision-making? Retrieved from: <http://sheilamargolis.com/2011/01/24/what-is-the-optimal-group-size-for-decision-making/>

Berea College. (No Date). Establishing Group Norms. Retrieved from: <http://www.berea.edu/brushy-fork-institute/establishing-group-norms/>

Oxford Brookes University. (No Date). Characteristics of a group: 1.7 Cohesiveness. Retrieved from: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/services/ocsld/resources/small-group/sgt107.html>

2. A primary group is a group whose members share close personal relationships and interact frequently outside of the group (Wikipedia, 17 June, 2014). A secondary group is a group whose members interact less on a personal level but still achieve the goals. Secondary groups are more adept at solving problems as they are mostly formed due to an intellectual need like my think-tank, while a primary group represents more of a social gathering, during which the members can become distracted and interact more personally with each other (Wikipedia, 17 June, 2014).

Wikipedia. (17 June, 2014). Primary and secondary groups. Retrieved from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary_and_secondary_groups>