1. There are many goals in small groups. From my research, they can be mainly characterized into two groups: social and educational (No Author, 2001). For individuals, this can either be to make friends and create interpersonal relationships, where relationships are more important than group attendance (Polic March 13, 2013). The group, depending on situation, can either be focused more inward on the members or more towards a task or achievement (McLane April 24, 2014.

No Author. (2001). Facilitating Small Group Learning: Succinct Handbook. Retrieved from:

<http://www.oucom.ohiou.edu/fd/Facilitating%20Small%20Group%20Learning.htm>

Polic, L. (March 13, 2013). The 3 Foundations to Small Groups You Must Know. Retrieved from: <http://youthspecialties.com/articles/the-3-foundations-to-small-groups-you-must-know>

McLane, A. (April 24, 2014). My 4 Goals as a Small Group Leader. Retrieved from: <http://adammclane.com/2014/04/24/4-goals-small-group-leader/>

2. For some groups, like sports teams, the goals are so apparent there is no communication. In a well-designed sports team, all members inherently understand that goal. For IM leagues, the goal is to win and to have fun(not always in that order, because we do suck and lose rather often). For most groups I’ve been in, except the Think Tank, I’ve always known the goal more as a gut feeling than anything else. It makes sense a class group is for a good grade, but there’s also a hidden goal there: interaction. For the Think Tank, we were responsible for figuring out exactly what the goal was, and how to get there. For that we had to talk about the goal.

In terms of the general picture of how groups determine goals, I think groups come out of a common need to solve a problem. If one can do it alone, they should and mostly will, but if it can’t be solved by one person, a group is required and the team members go in knowing what they must do.

3. My individual goal for working in groups is to make friends and get to know others. That, aside from completing tasks I can’t do alone, is the only real reason I join groups. I like getting to know people. In terms of some group experience offered to me personally, I think my summer camps as a child were great. I was a bad kid, and working in groups shaped me to be a better person because I had to get along with people. Looking back on it now, I think my love for groups could be some form of mild Stockholm Syndrome.

4. The one piece of information all my research agreed upon was that a small group needs a facilitator, a chairperson, a leader. A leader draws out queter members and keeps discussion going (Gallow No Date). The leader channels communication and works with outside people on group topics (Simon-Brown April, 1999).

Two of my sources seems more school-related as they also said a group needed a timekeeper and a secretary-like position (Gallow No Date). These positions exist to keep notes and make sure the group is running in a timely fashion. The one source that differs from the others is the one geared towards businesses, which also has long-term and short-term members as well as staff included (Simon-Brown April, 1999).

Simon-Brown, V. (April 1999). Choosing Your Group’s Structure, Mission, and Goals. Retrieved from: <http://www.citizensnyc.org/sites/default/files/public-attachments/workshop/choosing_your_groups_structure_mission_and_goals.pdf>

Gallow, D. (No Date). Working Effectively with Small Groups. Retrieved from: <http://www.tltc.uci.edu/pdf/WORKING%20EFFECTIVELY%20WITH%20SMALL%20GROUPS_PACKET.pdf>

No Author. (No Date). Small Group Roles. Retrieved from: <http://www.cct.umb.edu/smallgroup.html>

5. I think the two most clear parts of the indicator are my 10 in Task Leader and 0 in Social-Emotional Leader. I almost never use emotion to do anything, and I almost always become the leader of a group, either by challenging for it like I did for my Senior Design team, or by naturally becoming the center like my soccer teams. I am a 9 as an information provider. I agree with this because in class groups I try to supply the most information, to a point where it becomes my own personal competition to ‘beat’ the other members. I am also a 7 in Central Negative probably because I like to call people out on things they’re doing wrong and I try to analyze and correct others’ work. Also, I’m a 4 in Tension reliever, mainly because that’s more emotion-based, and I am more logic-based.