

Good Group Work

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This activity was adapted from the youcubed "Good Group Work" activity.

1 Goals

The goals of this activity are:

1. To help students reflect on productive strategies for working in a group and to create norms for working in groups in the class room.

2 Materials

For this activity you will need:

1. White board (or alternatively, flip chart paper)

3 Instructions

This activity will take approximately 20 minutes.

1. Explain the goals of the activity to students. Ask students what things people do when working on math in a group that they like and they dislike.
2. After students have had 5 minutes to reflect on the prompt, form groups of about 4 students. Have students discuss their ideas and agree on what they would like to share with the class.
3. Have each group share one idea about what they like and what they dislike, and then wrap back around and repeat, and write flip chart paper. Ask students to take a picture and make sure that the white board (or alternatively, flip chart paper) is displayed in the classroom.

4 Tips

1. If a student shares out an idea with a negative connotation like, "I don't like having to wait for slow people" do not write this down. Instead use this as a point to have a conversation about how we can create an environment that is respectful and safe for everyone. This type of comment is rarely an issue and students are generally very thoughtful and respectful.
2. Emphasize that there is no need to compete in the classroom. Emphasize avoiding rejection of ideas.

3. This activity can also provide time to discuss how group work will be generally structured through the class.