

Creating Effective Study Groups | 6 Tips

Your peers are sometimes your best academic resources. A study group is low-stakes and fosters support and motivation to do well.

Research shows that students who participate in collaborative learning feel more engaged and find success in their academic experiences.

6 WAYS TO MAKE SURE YOUR GROUP IS EFFECTIVE

1. **Be flexible.** While we're all facing the pandemic together, everyone is also in different situations at home. Maybe someone is taking a bit longer with their work. Or maybe they're slow to join Zoom calls. Regardless, try to be flexible and understanding of people right now.
 2. **Set clear expectations.** At the beginning of a group meeting, it might be helpful to agree on what the goal is for the end of the meeting. What do you hope to accomplish by the end? Talking about this as a group at the beginning may be helpful for getting concrete things done.
 3. **Use scheduling tools:** Schedule a time that works for everyone. To get everyone in the same place at the same time, consider using scheduling tools like [when2meet.com](#), [Doodle](#), or the Find a time option in Google calendar (if everyone uses and shares their Google calendars). **Meet regularly:** Commit to meeting on a regular basis (weekly or biweekly). This will give you the chance to prepare in advance and hold each other accountable. Get specific about where and when you'll meet each time. Before you end a study session, make sure the next meeting is scheduled before you leave.
 4. **Compare notes, learn notes:** Study groups give you a chance to compare your notes, but try not to simply copy someone else's notes. Compare your notes, but also talk about the actual content. Quizzing each other and talking through tricky concepts will help you learn the material better.
 5. **Use a shared notes document for group work.** When you're all in the same document at once, it is easy to stay on the same page and collaborate well. If everyone has their own document to work on, it might end up causing some confusion and slow you down.
 6. **Debrief:** Spend the last 10-15 minutes of each study session reviewing what your study group talked about. Summarizing what you all discussed in each session will help solidify the content you reviewed and the big take aways you should remember for both the next study group session and the upcoming exam.
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Honor people's differences. Not everyone has the same technology, internet access, quiet space, responsibilities, or home life as you do. Please be as understanding, flexible, and patient with each other as you can.
