



**ALL TOGETHER NOW:  
IDEAS FOR SUCCESSFUL GROUP ACTIVITIES**



**UNC**  
CENTER FOR  
FACULTY EXCELLENCE

2015 Faculty Showcase on  
Teaching at Carolina

# ALL TOGETHER NOW: IDEAS FOR SUCCESSFUL GROUP ACTIVITIES

## Preliminary Considerations:

- **CONTENT PRIORITIES**

*What are the most important concepts and connections for students to gain in any given class?*

- **SKILL BUILDING**

*How do the experiences students receive in any active learning environment motivate, engage, enhance understanding, increase retention of knowledge and encourage critical thinking and creative connections?*

- **INTEGRATING CONTENT AND SKILLS**

*How can groupwork be used to achieve a balance or an integration of content priorities and skill-building activities? The particular balance may vary from one lesson to another.*

- **TEACHER TALK V. STUDENT INTERACTION**

*Given the particular balance necessary for a particular day, what is an ideal ratio of teacher talk to student talk on that given day? (e.g. 20:80)*



# ALL TOGETHER NOW: IDEAS FOR SUCCESSFUL GROUP ACTIVITIES

## Sequencing Groupwork

- 1** WARMER (groups, pairs, independently)  
e.g. Quote / Video Clip / Question Log
- 2** INSTRUCTOR INPUT  
e.g. Lecture / Instructions / Rationale
- 3** GROUPWORK: STRUCTURED PRACTICE  
e.g. Defining Concepts / Clarifying Key Processes
- 4** GROUPWORK: EXPANSION (CREATIVE, OPEN-ENDED)  
e.g. Debates / Interviews / Surveys
- 5** WRAP-UP: INSTRUCTOR LED  
summary of key insights gained from group activities; clarifications;  
questions; conclusions



# ALL TOGETHER NOW: IDEAS FOR SUCCESSFUL GROUP ACTIVITIES

## Effective Group Management



ACTIVATE SCHEMATA



GIVE CLEAR SIMPLE DIRECTIONS



PROVIDE A MODEL



GIVE TIME LIMIT



MONITOR, FACILITATE, FOLLOW UP



**ALL TOGETHER NOW:  
IDEAS FOR SUCCESSFUL GROUP ACTIVITIES**

## **Cooperative learning:**

**Students work in pairs or groups to help one another complete a given task, attain a goal, or learn subject matter.**

**Promotes higher achievement, increased retention, interpersonal skills, self- esteem, acceptance of others, and responsibility.**

**Students learn best from each other.**

