



GROUPING BEST PRACTICES

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Benefits of Collaboration

- Important for many future careers
- Important lifelong skill
- Integration of multiple viewpoints
- Can assign more complicated tasks
- Can add variety to class instruction

Why use collaboration in your instruction?

- To expose learners to multiple viewpoints
- To help the student learn valuable collaboration skills
- To prepare students for a career in which they will have to engage in collaboration/teamwork
- To complete a task that is too great for one student
- To engage in thoughtful discussion about the material
- To reduce the amount of grading

Size

task and context matters!

Ability

how do you
define/measure it?

Research on
Grouping

Gender

affects communication,
not performance

Race/ethnicity

more perspectives to
navigate through

My Recommendations

- Grouping techniques need to match your purpose

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My Recommendations

- Grouping techniques need to match your purpose
- You must know your students well to use purposeful grouping techniques
- Group by deep-level factors (attitudes, beliefs, interests), rather than surface-level factors (demographics)
- When all else fails, randomize (true to most fields)

Thank you!

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