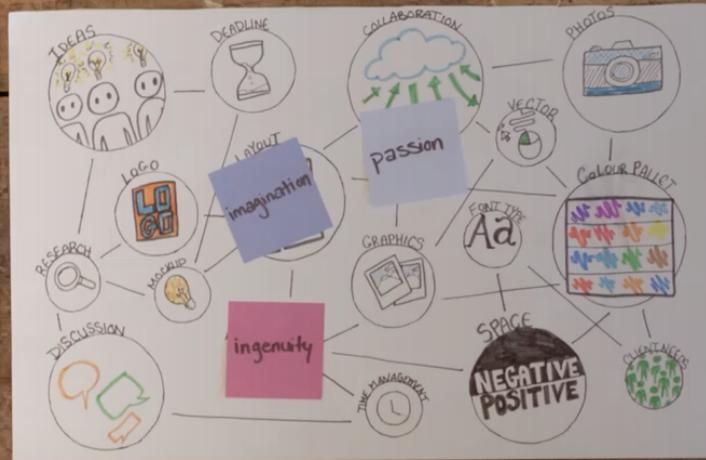


# Group Formation



Lattice D. Sams ,BSDH,MS  
UNC-Dental Hygiene Program  
Adams School of Dentistry



# Group Formation

- Opens the door to success

# Group Formation

Can sometimes be a complicated process...

Planning and gathering the facts are key

- Pre-planning
- Planning within the semester

Choose how you want to form groups

- Random
- Instructor Generated
- Self-Selected

# Group Formation

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## Random

- Helps student work with those they have not worked with before
- Give students opportunity to establish new learning relations that may challenge their perspectives and ways of thinking. (Rienties, Alcott, & Jindal-Snape, 2014).
- When this approach is used in my courses:
  - Class activities
  - Small class discussion or virtual breakout

## Instructor Generated

- Instructor Selection
- For example, the instructor can evaluate students' skills relevant to a team project and then select teams based on a strategy of optimizing the distribution of these skills across the teams (Michaelsen & Black, 1994).
- When this approach is used in my courses:
  - Class Projects
  - Class Assignments
  - Peer Assessments

An illustration on the left side of the slide shows a large grey hand reaching down from the top left to grasp the right arm of a central orange stick figure. The orange figure is in a slightly off-balance, falling or being pulled up position. Below the orange figure are two blue stick figures, one on the left and one on the right, both looking towards the center. The background is a light grey gradient with a white curved shape on the right side.

# Group Formation

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## Self Selection

- Common myth with Self Selection
- This method of group assignment does influence group dynamics, attitudes toward the group experience, and group outcomes.
- When this approach is used in my courses:
  - Class Projects
  - Class Assignments and Activities

# References

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- Chapman, Kenneth J., et al. "Can't we pick our own groups? The influence of group selection method on group dynamics and outcomes." *Journal of Management Education* 30.4 (2006): 557-569.
- Rienties, Bart, Peter Alcott, and Divya Jindal-Snape. "To let students self-select or not: that is the question for teachers of culturally diverse groups." *Journal of Studies in International Education* 18.1 (2014): 64-83.
- Michaelsen, Larry K., Arletta Bauman Knight, and L. Dee Fink. "Team-based learning: A transformative use of small groups in college teaching." (2004).
- Baepler, Paul, et al. *A guide to teaching in the active learning classroom: History, research, and practice*. Stylus Publishing, LLC, 2016.