

Things to do:

Revise all factors

Decide how we will present (Any ideas?)

What about a new list and a copy of this page?

I like this idea

Reviewed Small Group Communication Factors

1. The most important goal for a group in this class would be to collaboratively complete the stated task(s).
2. Groups are most productive when they all agree on scheduled times to meet and maintain communication among all members. Group members must agree on assigned tasks and their own jobs to complete the task at hand.
3. Group members are given a 10 minute grace period after an agreed upon group meeting time. If you are going to be late or miss the meeting, you are required to make contact with at least 2 group members before the meeting and explain why you will be tardy/not attend.
4. Criticism of other group members shouldn't be out of malice. Any criticism of ideas should be constructive and should offer alternatives/solutions to improve the quality of group work.
5. If any conflict arises that make working together difficult, group members need to be professional, communicate the problem, and make a plan to solve the issue.
6. Group members are only required to share a single goal, the goal to complete the assigned task.
7. Majority rule is a recommended method of group decision making, as long as it doesn't become polarizing, breaking the group into factions.
8. If one group member is not pulling his or her weight, the other group members should talk to the member about what the expectations are and what the group expects them to do.
9. Individuals within the group will have an input on a teachers final grade through an average grade decided by other members of the group.

Ben Schlegel= Purple/Times New Roman

Nina Vizcarrondo=green

Barbara Marshall=pink (BTW- I think the highlighting was from cutting and pasting, not because I think my ideas merit highlighting) :)

1. The most important goal for a group in this class would be to complete the stated task(s).
(I completely agree with this. No change needed)
I'd say maybe to add "collaboratively" before complete or at the end. I think that's always the problem in group projects right? (even though we're all participating. I'm just saying generally)

I like this addition

Me, too

2. Groups are most productive when a leader steps forward to run meetings and allocate tasks.

Group members must agree on assigned tasks and their own jobs to complete the task at hand. Productivity comes from the division of a large task and group members knowing what is expected of them.

I agree with your last sentence Benjamin. Maybe it should be first. I do think we need to reword the professors number 2 statement, but still include the importance of productivity and agreeing on times for meetings. Maybe “groups are most productive when they all agree on scheduled times to meet and maintain communication among all members.” Then maybe Bens first sentence.

Okay. So should it look like this then? “ Groups are most productive when they all agree on scheduled times to meet and maintain communication among all members.Group members must agree on assigned tasks and their own jobs to complete the task at hand. “

Sounds good to me.

3. We should have a high degree of tolerance for group members who are late to synchronous meetings or do not attend due to other obligations.

I think this should be changed to say that, in the case that a group member cannot attend a synchronous meeting, that member should let other group members know as soon as possible (and before the meeting is scheduled)

Group members are given a 10 minute grace period after an agreed upon group reading time. If you are going to be late and you know before the meeting you are required to make contact with at least 2 members of the group and explain why you will not be at the meeting.

I like that you stated to make contact with at least two members and the grace period and I like Barbara’s addition of specifying “before the meeting is scheduled”.

Ok so how can we combine these two statements?

4. Creating friendships and completing the group task are equally important.

I’m not sure this is an important item. It’s nice, but, if we keep #1 as stated, this is somewhat contradictory.

(Completing the task is more important.)

Omit the creating friendships part. Maybe creating networks?

Want to just cut this rule?

5. Criticizing other group members should be avoided.

I agree that criticizing the members themselves should be avoided. Any criticism of ideas should be constructive and should offer alternatives.

Criticism of other group members shouldn’t be out of malice. Criticisms should only be made to improve the quality of group work.

Barbara for alternatives, does that mean like offer solutions? Sorry English isn't my first language. If that is what that means, then I love it! Criticisms can only be made if constructive and with respectfully offering suggestions/solutions.

Yes, my meaning was that if you are going to criticize an idea, you should offer a different solution to the problem, rather than just say, "I don't like that"

6. Avoiding smaller conflicts is the best method to reduce conflict escalation.

If any conflict arises that make working together impossible group members need to be professional, communicate the problem, and make a plan to solve the issue.

I like the above suggestions. The only thing I would change is switch out impossible for difficult. I agree- we don't want to let a problem get to the point that working together is impossible.

7. All group members should have identical goals and reasons for being involved.

Group members are only required to share a single goal, the goal to complete the assigned task.

Agree with Ben's change.

I agree, too

8. Majority rule is the best method of group decision making.

Whenever possible, building consensus is preferable to voting and having some members "lose" while others "win"

I agree with the rule

Maybe one of the first tasks as a group in building consensus is to decide how they will be making decisions. Majority rule is a recommended, mainly used method.

I'm OK with using a vote as long as it doesn't become polarizing, breaking the group into factions.

9. If one group member is not pulling his or her weight, the other group members should confront that person together.

I agree. I just think that if this starts to happen you need to keep the lazy member in the loop. Talk to the member about what the expectations are and what the group expects them to do.

The last is a bit redundant in the "expect" part

10. Everyone in the group should receive the same grade for group projects.

I feel conflicted on this as both options have merit. If the group is graded on the end result of the group project the grade is on the final output of work that this collection of individuals can complete. While at the same time if one member isn't pulling their own weight it seems unfair that they would receive the same grade as a member who put in a greater amount of effort

The main problem with any sort of grade differentiation is the instructor being able to identify the individual contributions both in terms of quantity and quality. (Been there, don't like to do it).

For two of my previous classes, group members graded each other which the instructor took into consideration and averaged it out with what the students graded. What do you think?