

Grading Methods for Group Work

Instructor Assessment of Group Product

Assessment Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Shared Group Grade</p> <p>The group submits one product and all group members receive the same grade, regardless of individual contribution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ encourages group work - groups sink or swim together ○ decreases likelihood of plagiarism (more likely with individual products from group work) ○ relatively straightforward method 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ individual contributions are not necessarily reflected in the marks ○ stronger students may be unfairly disadvantaged by weaker ones and vice versa
<p>Group Average Grade</p> <p>Individual submissions (allocated tasks or individual reports) are scored individually. The group members each receive the average of these individual scores.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ may provide motivation for students to focus on both individual and group work and thereby develop in both areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ may be perceived as unfair by students ○ stronger students may be unfairly disadvantaged by weaker ones and vice versa
<p>Individual Grade - Allocated task</p> <p>Each student completes an allocated task that contributes to the final group product and gets the marks for that task</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a relatively objective way of ensuring individual participation ○ may provide additional motivation to students ○ potential to reward outstanding performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ difficult to find tasks that are exactly equal in size/complexity ○ does not encourage the group process/collaboration ○ dependencies between tasks may slow progress of some
<p>Individual Grade - Individual report</p> <p>Each student writes and submits an individual report based on the group's work on the task/project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ensures individual effort ○ perceived as fair by students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ precise manner in which individual reports should differ often very unclear to students ○ likelihood of unintentional plagiarism increased
<p>Individual Grade - Examination</p> <p>Exam questions specifically target the group projects, and can only be answered by students who have been thoroughly involved in the project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ may increase motivation to learn from the group project including learning from the other members of the group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ may diminish importance of group work ○ additional work for staff in designing exam questions ○ may not be effective, students may be able to answer the questions by reading the group reports

Student Assessment of Group Product

Assessment Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Student distribution of pool of marks</p> <p>Instructor awards a set number of scores and let the group decide how to distribute them.</p> <p>Example: 4 member group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Product grade: 80/100. ○ $4 * 80 = 320$ pts to be distributed. ○ No one student can be given less than zero or more than 100. ○ If members decide that they all contributed equally then each get 80 ○ If they decided that person A deserved much more, then A might get 95, and the remaining if equal would get 75. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ easy to implement ○ may motivate students to contribute more ○ negotiation skills become part of the learning process ○ potential to reward outstanding performance ○ may be perceived as fairer than shared or average group mark alone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ open to subjective evaluation by friends ○ may lead to conflict ○ may foster competition and therefore be counterproductive to team work ○ students may not have the skills necessary for the required negotiation
<p>Students allocate individual weightings</p> <p>Instructor gives shared group grade & individual grade adjusted according to a peer assessment factor.</p> <p>Example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group Grade = 80/100 ○ The individual student's peer grade ranges from .5 - 1.5, with 1 for full ○ Grade = Group grade * peer ○ Below = $80 * .75 = 60$ ○ Above = $80 * 1.2 = 96$ 	<p>As Above</p>	<p>As Above</p>

Student Assessment of Group Product (continued)

Assessment Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Peer Evaluation - random marker, using criteria, moderated</p> <p>Assessment items are anonymously completed by students who identify whether their peer has met the assessment criteria and awards a grade. These grades are moderated by instructor and rating sheets returned to student.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ helps clarify criteria for assessment ○ encourages sense of involvement and responsibility ○ assists students to develop skills in independent judgement ○ increases feedback to students ○ random allocation addresses potential friendship and other influences on assessment ○ provides experience to careers where peer judgement occurs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ time may have to be invested in teaching students to evaluate each other ○ instructor moderation is time consuming

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