

How to Succeed with Peer Study Groups

Academic Support ◦ Tutorial Services ◦ Boise State University

How to Get Started:

- Someone needs to take the first step. Ask 4 or 5 students from your class if they would like to form a study group.
- Discuss possible meeting days, times, and locations that will work for the group.
- Make a commitment to this group. If each person makes the commitment to meet at the designated times, comes prepared to the session, and attends class, then success will be natural.

Session 1:

- **Introductions.** Exchange phone numbers and e-mail addresses
- **Discuss goals of the group.** What does the group want to accomplish?
- **What does it take to have a successful study group?**
Discuss:
 - Making a commitment
 - Going to class
 - Doing assigned work
 - Coming to the session prepared
- **Set the ground rules for the group.** Have the group decide what is OK and what is not (take notes). Things to think about: commitment, meeting days and times, communication with each other, consequences for missing study sessions, carrying own weight, what to do if someone in the group does not do his/her part, etc.
- **Begin the study session.** Assign roles to the members of the group.
Task Master- Don't let the group get off track too much
Time Keeper- Don't spend too much time on one thing and end session on the agreed time.
Note Taker- Keep notes on areas covered in session and things the group agreed on. (i.e. taking the meeting minutes.)

Facilitator- Leads a discussion on what was covered in class over the past week. Have group discuss any particular parts that they struggle with and see if they, as a group, can work through it.

- **Closure.** Wrap up the session with a brief review of what was covered before the actual study session started. Set a time and place for the next session.

Session 2:

- **Discuss material covered in class.** Facilitator leads the discussion by asking questions: Vocabulary? Subject emphasis? Diagrams/Charts? Confusion?
- **Discuss required reading.** Facilitator should emphasize the importance of reading material before going to class. This will help in the understanding of the professor's material. Discuss how to extract important information from text: bold print, vocabulary, review questions, headings, and diagrams.
- **Discuss any areas of confusion.** Individuals need to help each other through this part. If the entire group is confused, they need to make a visit to see their professor.
- **Tips to prepare for next study session.** A) Write down and bring questions. B) Make flashcards. C) Develop a practice quiz from notes and assigned reading.
- **Closure.** Have the group briefly recap what they learned from this study session. Reminder of next session day, time, location, and roles.

Future Study Sessions:

- Future sessions are conducted the same way. Each member of the group takes on new roles for each session. It is a group effort to study the material and help each other to be successful.

For more information on study skills, visit us at:

Gateway Center for Academic Support

Tutorial services

208.426.4049

<http://tutoring.boisestate.edu>

