

IDT ROUNDTABLE

USING GROUPS AND GROUPING ONLINE

MARCH 2, 11:30AM

K-STATE STUDENT UNION ROOM 212

Basic Strategies

- Set instructions and guidelines
- Have grading rubrics tied with each group activity
- Identify strategies to assess individual work within groups
- Make it fun by adding icons and group names
- Maintain netiquette policies

Tools worth Mentioning

- Message Board
- Calendar tool
- Chat Room
- File Center
- Whiteboard
- E-mail Group

Advantages

- Provides a student centered learning environment
- Allows for individual contributions
- Offers up the chance for peer review
- Creates opportunities for collaboration
- Allows for critical thinking skills to develop
- Provides a place for ongoing communication
- Gives group members the ability to share files
- Empowers students to manage their own time by setting appointments

Tricks of the Trade

- Set up groups ahead of class time
- Set up grouping tools based on the number of students or groups
- Unobtrusively keep tabs on all group activity in the course
- Monitor event logs of each group
- Play the role of facilitator and moderator
- Establish milestones and deadlines

Prevent Pitfalls

- Watch out for domination by any one group member
- Encourage quiet group members to participate
- Don't hesitate to step in and mediate when conflicts get out of hand

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