

# Team-based Learning

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### PEDAGOGY

Group projects are an active learning strategy that help students move beyond passive receipt of information. Team-based learning allows students to participate in their own knowledge construction, to apply their knowledge to real-world situations, and to deepen the learning experience.

### PURPOSE

Choose a team-based approach when a project is too complex to complete independently.

- » Add peer assessment to alleviate fears of unfair grading practices.
- » Allow enough time to complete the group project, and consider having fewer course objectives.

### PROCEDURE

- » Design the project to enable everyone to contribute equally. Group projects that are too small can result in one or two people completing all the work.
- » Assign groups of 4-7 students.
- » Assign group roles, or allow group members to determine roles.
- » Balance the group by pairing weak and strong skills together.
- » Ensure that teams start their first meeting by making a contract or charter.
- » Check in regularly to ensure groups are making progress.

### CONSIDERATIONS

Instructors need to set up group projects carefully and have a plan to facilitate and assess each project; it may be necessary to sacrifice goals like covering all the desired content.



**INTERMEDIATE**