



Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Introduction

In this course a lot of the work that we'll be doing will be done in groups. Working in groups can be challenging. Sometimes it feels like one member is doing all the work, sometimes that one member is derailing everything, or maybe you just don't particularly like some of the members of your group. In the world of work a lot of what we done is done as part of a group and being an effective group member or leader is an essential skill for success in the 21st century.

For groups or teams to be successful it is important to set ground rules or norms that the members of the group agree to follow to ensure that everyone is doing their fair share and gets along.

Brainstorming 10 Minutes

For the next 10 minutes you should reflect on prior experiences working in groups.

Try to think of a time when you worked in a group and the experience was really good. Write a few sentences describing what the group activity was and why you think it worked well.

List 3 things that you would like to see in a group that you work in in the future:

Now think of a time when you had a bad experience working in a group. Write a few sentences describing the situation and what made it bad for you.

List 3 things that you want to make sure are NOT part of working in a group in the future:

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HANDLING DISAGREEMENTS

A critical component of working with others successfully is developing positive ways to handle disagreements. Conflict in a group doesn't have to mean that the group cannot work. Handling conflict well presents an opportunity for everyone in a group to grow and can make the group a winner instead of one person the loser.

Think of a time you've had a disagreement with a friend or family member that you were able to resolve where everyone felt good about the resolution. How did you resolve it? Are there any specific lessons we could apply to rules for a group in resolving conflict?

PAIR/SHARE
5 Minutes

Get together with a neighbor and take turns sharing your brainstorming about your positive and negative group experiences and how you've handled disagreements. Use the space below to make notes of things you think will be important for the whole class to help in setting ground rules for how groups will work in this class.

WHOLE GROUP

In a whole-class discussion come up with a set of norms that everyone will be required to follow when working in groups. Make notes here of anything you want to make sure makes it into the discussion.
