

## Pedagogical Recommendations for Group Work

- **Ask yourself: Does this assignment need to involve group work?** Before anything else, decide exactly what you want students to learn and make sure it's suited to group collaboration. If the work doesn't break down easily (and equitably), maybe it's worth considering a different route.
- **Discuss expectations for behavior**, as well as consequences for not meeting expectations, at the beginning of the semester and in course syllabi.
- **Provide clear and specific instructions.** Save yourself the trouble, and students the stress, of knowing how to effectively complete the project.
- **Use rubrics!** Rubrics provide structure and information that both students and faculty value. For students, rubrics take the guesswork out of how faculty evaluate their work. For faculty, rubrics provide an easy to follow, objective way of measuring levels of student achievement.
- **Highlight the Purpose:** When designing group activities, be cognizant of giving an explanation to the learner that outlines why they are doing this activity, what they will learn by doing so, why the activity is created for group.
- **Limit the group size.** For digital learning, the usual recommendation is three to five members. Success using larger groups vary depending on the structure of the group work being assigned.
- **Closely monitor group discussion boards** to: identify student involvement, contact students not participating early in the group process, collect ongoing data on student progress, etc.

Source:

<https://www.utsa.edu/tlc/tls/Moving%20Your%20Course%20Online/#!/lessons/K2A5tKwwA2v7O3XnDU6cPS0tgm414LG4>