

Forming Groups

Now before you can get the team-based learning process going, and make it work, you have to actually establish the teams. That's one of the critical pieces, and it involves assigning people to groups - the set of the people in class to groups in a way so they can have the resources to do what they need to do. You've got to do it on the spot with very little information about them. The objective is to create heterogenous groups that have the assets and abilities in relation to this course mixed up equally across these groups. The other thing is that the groups have to be big enough, so they have, in combination, a set of assets that will allow them to be effective. What you will see is a very simple process where I gather some information about them that I think is important to know in relation to this course. Then I simply have them form a line and count them into teams.

So, here's what's going to happen next. I'm going to put you into groups. Then I'm going to give you 15 minutes for a break and to prepare for a demonstration test, a redness assessment test. I'll tell you about that in a second. I need to gather some information to put you in groups first. How many of you are outside of the college of business? What discipline or what program?

How many of you are in the Bac. MAT program? (laughs – if you don't know what it is you aren't) Raise those high I want to count that number.

The ones who are from outside the college of business as an undergrad... ok quite a few of you. I'm going to find out what disciplines you studied in, where you got your degrees, and when. Did I get everybody from outside the college of business?

Ok the rest of you have undergraduate business degrees. Raise your hands so I can get a sense of how many of those there were.

Your major area: Ok I'm going to have you start a line right here and I would like those who have engineering and computer sciences undergraduate degrees to come up and stand in this line starting right there and going on around however far you need to go. That's all my engineering and computer science folks. Ok the remaining undergrad degrees - let me get the hard science undergrad degrees. That would include I'm going to say botany, what else did we have or microbiology I guess, micro bio. Let me take my physical therapy guy. That's sort of physical science, right? Anything physical science-like for undergrad degrees? Ok next my humanities and arts undergrad degrees next in line starting right there. Next undergrad degrees in finance and accounting and that would include Bac. MAT. The rest of you are undergrad degrees in business but not in finance or accounting, right? Then you get in line. Next, is there anyone physically here in the room who is not enrolled? I thought I was supposed to have 42 so we'll see what happens.

When I put you into groups I'm going to have the 1's right in this area, the 2's kind of in the center here, the 3's there, 4's, 5's, and 6's ok. One question, (student asked a question, inaudible). No no after tonight you can open it up. You can open it up for 15 minutes but then you've got to close it up.

As I formed the teams I ended up with an 8-member team. I like 6 and 7-member teams. I'm a little nervous about 8-member teams. I thought I was going to have 42 students in the class and needed an even number of teams for some activities that were coming. I ended up with 43 students. I either had to start over which I chose not to do or gamble on that the 8 member team would work well - which it did.

We're going to have one 8-member group. There are 43, so that means someone's not officially on the list but that's ok. We'll get you in. 1's,2's,3's,4's,5's,6's, go ahead. Go there, and this will be your home for the semester.