

Increase your studying power with a STUDY GROUP!

Study groups work because you share ideas, collaborate, and learn from each other. Below are tips on how to create a study group and tips on what to do once you are in your study group. Use these 5 tips to make sure that your study group is beneficial and 4 more tips to make sure you are productive during your study meetings.

Your Study Group:

1. Keep your group small, 4 to 6 people. This size group should stay on task and allow each person to contribute.
2. Study with good students who are alert, take notes and ask questions in class. They may or may not be your friends, but they will be a good study partners. Students who are all confused by the material won't make as much progress as groups of students that include students with understanding of the material who can contribute knowledge and ability to the group.
3. Pick your study location carefully. Look for a distraction free zone! You don't want to be interrupted by friends or students walking past you. Limit the technology to only what is needed; close unnecessary computer programs and turn off phones. Remember you will need a lot of space to spread out your books.
4. Work for 2 to 3 hours; shorter periods of time will force you to be more productive and stay focused.
5. Plan to meet regularly. Think of your study group as an extension of your class. Pick a day and time to meet weekly and stick to it.

Studying in a group will require that you do things differently than what you do when you study alone.

1. Make a plan for the study time and stick to it.
2. Show up to your study group prepared. You will have to study outside of your study group; some of this will be time spent preparing for study group.
3. Give assignments to the study group members. Here are a few ideas for assignments:
 - a. Divide the week's class material among the group and have each person write 10 to 20 questions about their section. You can then quiz each other and use the questions to review the week's material.
 - b. Have each member of the group pinpoint the main ideas of the week's units. You can compare and discuss where you have agreement and disagreement.
 - c. Summarize the material, breaking it down to the simplest ideas and then as a group flush out the details.
 - d. Create an outline of each chapter, unit or class period. Then cut the outline apart and as a group put the outline back together in proper order.
4. Take turns teaching and speaking so that everyone has the opportunity to reinforce his or her knowledge.

Follow these tips for your study groups and you will multiply your studying power and your learning!