



Goal Setting: Cooperative Learning

Creating Cooperative Learning Groups

Now that you have decided to incorporate cooperative learning groups into your classroom instruction, set a goal for how often you will use cooperative groups.

Goal: I will use cooperative learning groups at least times per in my classroom lessons.
Consider if you want to use cooperative groups each day or per week.

Simple Data ^[1]				
Day	Time/Class	Activity	Group Size	Type of Group Work
Comments:				

Did I meet my goal?	
Yes	No
If YES, what went well?	If NO, what were the challenges?

How will I meet the goal next time?



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[1] Using Simple Data

Keep this form close to you (perhaps on a clipboard that you can readily access or your lesson plan book) while planning for and preparing students to work in collaborative groups. Each time you use a collaborative learning group strategy, write down the day, time/class, activity, group size, and type of group work. Then, at the end of the day or week, determine if you met your goal.

If you met your goal

Give yourself some behavior-specific praise! Keep it up.

If you did not meet your goal

Reflect on any challenges you had. Determine how to overcome the challenges and give it another try. Meeting with your Double Check coach to problem solve can be helpful.

Challenges	Tips from the Field
<p>“ “ <i>Some students are not participating with their group.</i></p>	<p>Make sure that you have explicitly stated your academic and behavioral expectations for the group work activity. Assess if the students who are not participating are being encouraged or perhaps discouraged to do so by other group members. Develop a plan for actively monitoring groups and ensuring students are on task. Provide behavior-specific praise to students who are on task and participating.</p>
<p>“ “ <i>Groups are taking too long to complete the assignment, more time than if I had just made everyone do it on their own.</i></p>	<p>Determine if the task is too large and overwhelming. Break the project or activity into smaller more manageable tasks in which some could possibly be completed individually, but in which ultimately the students are working together as much as possible.</p>
<p>“ “ <i>Group members seem to argue and have conflict with each other with little work getting done.</i></p>	<p>Take a step back and reflect on if you have worked on building a sense of community and belonging in your classroom. You may need to do some more team building activities that build trust among students before asking students to complete academic tasks in groups.</p>