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Center for  
Teaching and  
Learning

# The Power of Study Groups



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Which looks like the best way to study?



**A**

or



**B**



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# Today's Learning Objectives

- Being a “cheer”-leader
- Functional versus dysfunctional study groups
- Technologies to support study groups



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# Being a “cheer”-leader

Choose to be in charge of your learning!



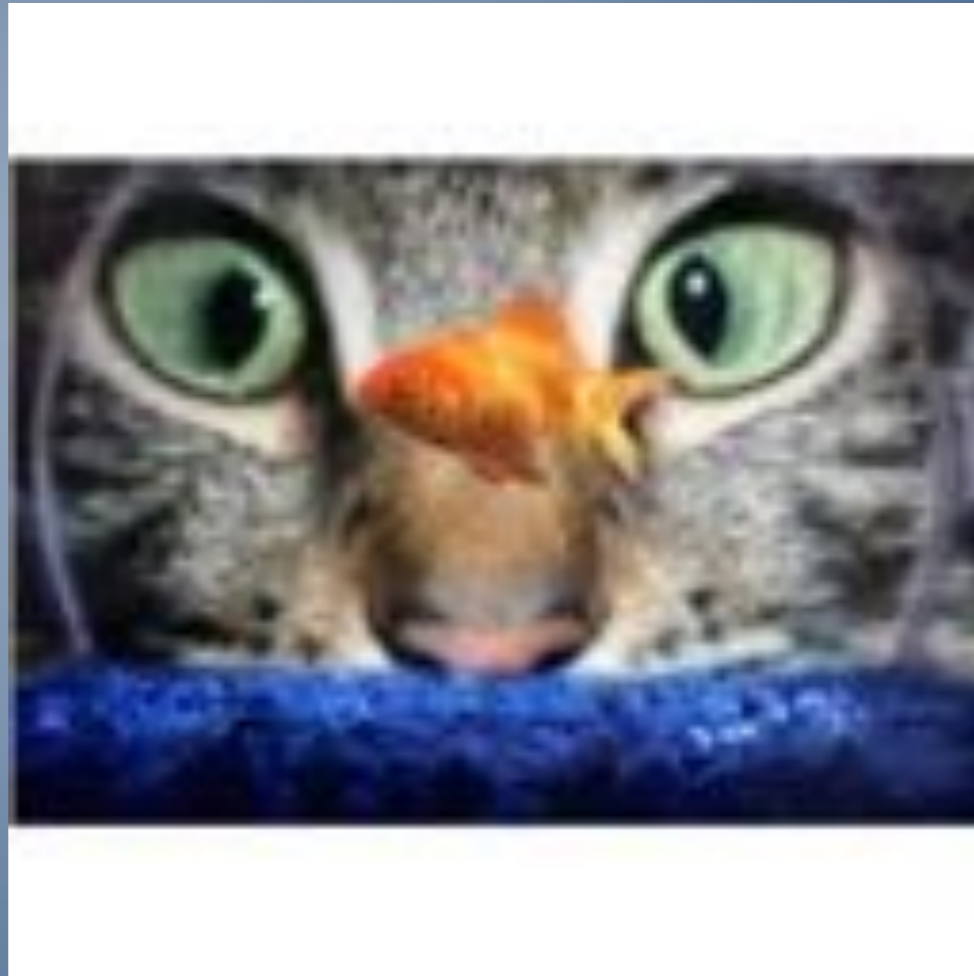
# Metacognition and Learning

- A study group can be a step on the path to metacognition (a powerful learning concept) and deeper learning
- Stephen Chew, Samford University, Video 3  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xeHh5DnClw&feature=related>



# A functional study group helps to...

- 



**... keep things in perspective.**



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# A dysfunctional study group...



**... promotes procrastination and perpetuates anxiety.**



# What are your ideas?



**... to keep your study group functioning productively?**

# Some ideas

- Take the time to do some team building.
- Have regular meeting times
- Have an agenda
- Divide up work and keep a list of action items
- Take the time to encourage each other

**... to keep your study group functioning productively?**

# Team Building

- Introduce yourselves. Share goals and fun facts.
- Take (just!) a few minutes at the start of each meeting to “visit.”
- Share a meal or meet for coffee.
- Reach out and ask each other how things are going.



# If your study group is healthy

- 



**... you will feel that you are making good, forward progress.**



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# Ideas for Facilitating Group Work

Make it a game:

- Make flash cards and test each other.
- Take turns asking each other questions about the readings. Keep score and the winner wins a bag of candy.
- Do some role playing: take turns being the “evil professor inquisitor” and asking the others questions.



# Roles and Leadership

## Head or Headless?

Sometimes groups work best when there is no leader (an “acephalous” group) and responsibilities are rotated.

If you choose to have a leader, the leader needs to make sure all voices are heard to keep the group working well together.



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# Technologies to Support Group Work

Use Google Docs or Prezi, or other collaboration tool to work asynchronously.

(Quick Google Presentation and Prezi demos)

Use Google Hangout to meet “online” when you can’t meet face to face.

Use Evernote (evernote.com, Pear Note (audio/video-<http://www.usefulfruit.com/pearnote/> 30 day trial), Zotero (zotero.org), Mendeley, or Diigo (www.diigo.com) to share files and research. (Quick Diigo and Zotero demos)



# Technologies to Support Group Work

iPad apps (free or nominal cost)

Notes Plus (note taking. Notes can be shared.)

Studious (calendar tool that you can synch with friends)

Quizlet (flashcards that can be shared)

You can get these via the App Store.



# The Power of Reflection

This is your education! Take charge!

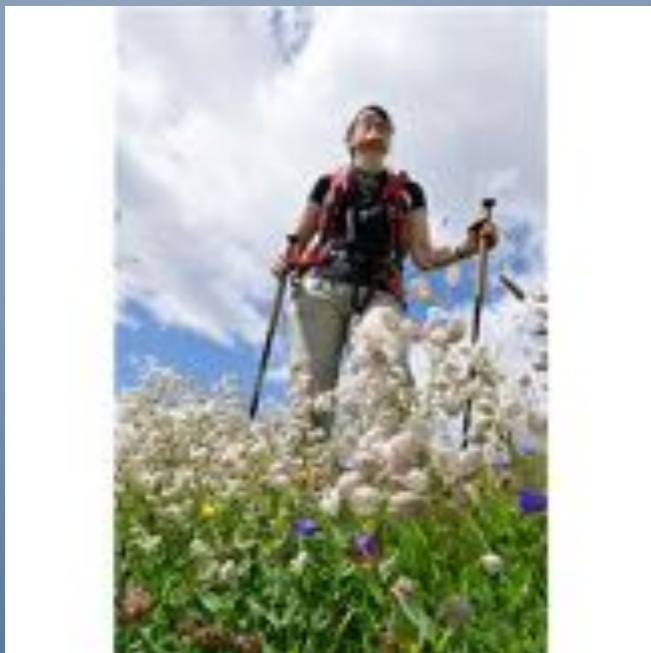
Set your own goals now. Put placeholders in your calendar to reflect on your progress towards those goals periodically.

This will help!



# All Work and No Play ...

Take the time for exercise, social events, and co-curricular activities.



# Wrap-up and Assessment

- Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

