

# Classroom Management: Handling Student Differences in Group/Team Work Situations

Timothy Kurzweg  
Associate Professor  
Electrical and Computer Engineering



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# How we envision our student teams



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# Reality?



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# My Engineering Teamwork Perspective

- Freshman Design
- Labs – Experimental and Software
- Capstone Experience – Senior Design
- ABET Accreditation Requirements
- Graduate students
  - Research labs



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# Challenges in Teamwork Interactions

- No Leader
- Leader is too bossy, demanding, does not listen
- Team “carries” someone
- Team is altogether not functional – conflicting personalities – no work is getting done



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# Proactive Potential Practices

- Educate the students
  - We assume students know how to work together
  - We need to teach them
  - Be proactive not reactive
  - Topics:
    - Leadership, respect for others, common goals, breaking work into achievable and obtainable goals, brainstorming, ethics
- Recognize and appreciate teamwork dynamics and diversity within teams



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# Proactive Potential Practices

- Don't inflate the size of a group – correctly choose the size – keep all student involved
- What should not dictate size (although it does)
  - Technology (ie, number of computers)
  - Number of labs/projects to grade
- Instructor vs. Student Selected Group
  - Possibly balance strengths



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# Proactive Potential Practices

- Assign roles on a team, and switch throughout project/term (if appropriate)
- Must demonstrate and convince the team of the value of working together
- Early contact and evaluation by instructor
  - Set early term milestone that can demonstrate teamwork



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# What is team is not working...

- Identify the problem.
  - Talk to the team and individuals
  - Assign a task(s) to get team and/or individual back on track
  - Is it one person on the team? Is it an even split?
  - Office of Disability Resources?
  - Drexel Counseling Center?
  - Change teams. It is your class and your rules.



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# Grading Teamwork

- Make teamwork important to the success of the project
- Individual portion of grade
- Teamwork portion of grade
- Student self assessment
- Student and Faculty/TA team assessment
- Notebooks both individual and group



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# Thank you!

- What are your thoughts, experiences, and practices?



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