Study Groups: Benefits, Tasks, & Rules

Benefits of Study Groups

• Material is better understood and retained
• Students can confirm with each other any confusing or complex subject material
• Fellow students can be a source of support and encouragement
• Opportunity to teach, not just be recipient of someone else’s knowledge
• Increase in confidence in academic capability
• Opportunity to learn new study habits from peers
• Learning becomes more personally relevant and intellectually stimulating

Things to Do at Meetings:

• Establish goals and what you hope to accomplish by joining a study group
• Review lecture notes together; discuss anything you did not understand
• Discuss key concepts from lectures
• Discuss key concepts from the textbook
• Work on assignments
• Assign yourselves questions and work on them
• Study for tests or exams
• Discuss what questions you expect to be on tests and exams
• Review past exams if the professor has made them available

Ground Rules for Study Group Sessions

• Be on time and prepared
• Be respectful of others' ideas
• Have homework, study guides, sample test questions, etc. completed before session
• Have questions about material ready to discuss
• Bring class notes and textbooks to study sessions
• Determine where, when, and how often the group will meet
• Do not meet sporadically—schedule consistent weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly sessions