



Groupwork at UOW

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Groupwork Issues

- Others cover for the one who doesn't contribute
- A student doesn't know any other in group
- Group too large for all to contribute
- High achiever in group of low achievers
- Low achiever in group of high achievers
- Individual mark



The Action Plan

- Examine subject outlines
 - Type and format of assessment
 - Marking criteria
 - Individual component
- How tertiary literacies embedded
- Workshop to present all approaches
- Literature review; best practice?
- Write up case study



Literature

- Bennett (UOW) Ch1 in Roberts 2004 emphasises the use of authentic activities, “real-world collaboration”; and for learners to evaluate and reflect on outcomes and experiences
- Muukkonen, Hakkarainen, Lakkala (Helsinki) Ch2 in Roberts 2004 found that students took surface-level approach to learning, not in-depth processing of knowledge; and necessitates move to “collaborative building of knowledge”
- Treleaven (UWS) Ch7 in Roberts 2004 presents a “Collaborative Learning Model” (p169) of the interplay of “learning mechanism” and “learning behaviour” within a “learning environment”
- Mutch 1998 identifies some problems; emphasises need for clarity and role of groupwork; doesn’t believe learning sets work



Literature

- Humphreys, Greenan, McIlveen 1997 studied groupwork and propose: use of a project log, increase awareness of team dynamics, objective evaluation of individual contribution with self and peer assessment
- Gatfield 1999 sees five major benefits for students working in groups; study found high levels of student satisfaction in the peer assessment process
- Slimani-Rolls 2003 perceive potential problems of groupwork in their Business School teaching; study found disparate level of experience hindered learners mixing “profitably”; some learners demotivated
- Mahenthiran & Rouse (2000) studied levels of student control over group formation
- ... and many more



Findings

- 16 subjects had groupwork
- 8 subjects had individual component
- 4 subjects had individual mark
- All had Academic Literacies, 10 had IL, 2 had CL

Teaching and Learning Scholars Network 2005
Groupwork Project

Subject	Assessment Type	Assessment Format	Group Size	Outcomes to be Achieved	Process to be Learnt	Individual Component	Individual Mark	Weighting	Literacies Embedded	How Literacies Embedded	Graduate Attributes
TB0901	Analysis of financial report	Group report	3 to 5	Identification of financial position; recommendations	financial analysis; id'n of Judgements made	Nil	Nil	25%	AL; IL?	AL: reading and discussing financial statements, analysing specific aspects, make recommendation. IL: evaluate and effectively use information	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
TB0905	Review of IS application	Group report and presentation	3 to 4	Report	evaluation of information system application speaking; synthesising info; group dynamics	Speaking	Nil	40%	AL; IL; CL	AL: evaluate and discussing IS application, analysing specific aspects, report & present. IL: locate, evaluate and effectively use information. CL: use software	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8
TB0908	Review of case study	Group presentation and report	?	Information transfer	quantitative analysis, presentation	Speaking	Nil	20%	AL	AL: reading and discussing case study, report & present	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TB0912	Review of case study	Group report	?	presentation; report	quantitative analysis, presentation	Nil	Nil	20%	AL; CL	AL: reading and discussing computer output, analysing specific aspects, make recommendation. CL: evaluate and effectively use software.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8
TB0918									AL; IL	AL: reading and discussing case study, report & present. IL: locate, evaluate and effectively use information	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TB0920	Develop strategy	Group report	4	Report on strategies and how implemented	strategy development; research; groupwork	Reflection	5	25%	AL; IL	AL: reading/filtering and discussing a company, analysing information. IL: recognise need, locate, evaluate and effectively use information	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
TB0925	Analyse case study	Group report and presentation	4	Report; powerpoint presentation	critical analysis; presentation	Nil	Nil	30%	AL; IL	AL: reading and discussing case study, critically analyse, report and present. IL: evaluate and effectively use information	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
TB0926									AL	AL: reading, discussing, analysing data, apply concepts, evaluate implications, make recommendation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8
TB0928	Research into logistics systems of a country	Group report and presentation	3	Report of country factors	research; presentation; groupwork	Presentation	15/30	30%	AL	AL: researching and discussing topic, report trends, make presentation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8
TB0930	Develop business case for E-service project	3 reports and a presentation	up to 6	report; presentation	developing business case; project planning	Nil	by exception	30%	AL	AL: researching and discussing business proposal, evaluate result	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8
TB0980	Analysis of financial report	Group report and presentation	3 to 5	Identification of financial position; recommendations	financial analysis; id'n of Judgements made	Nil	Nil	30%	AL; IL?	AL: reading and discussing financial statements, analysing specific aspects, make recommendation. IL: evaluate and effectively use information	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
TB0981	Research an ILO standard	Group report and powerpoint slides	4	explanation of ILO standard; powerpoint slides	research; groupwork	Participation	1/10	20%	AL; IL	AL: researching, discussing and analysing topic. IL: locate, evaluate and effectively use information	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TB0982	Develop brand strategy and market plan	Group report and presentation	3 to 4	report; presentation	integrate theoretical concepts; presentation	Nil	Nil	35%	AL; IL	AL: reading and discussing topic, analyse data, report and present. IL: evaluate and use information	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
TB0983	Discussion of issue Business research (task 3)	Group presentation; Individual report	?	presentation; essay	presentation; groupwork	essay	25%	35%	AL; IL	AL: reading, discussing and analysing topic, report and present. IL: evaluate and effectively use information	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TB0985	Business report (task 4)	Group presentation	?	presentation	research; groupwork	other tasks	Nil	25%	AL; IL	AL: researching and discussing topic, present findings. IL: evaluate and effectively use information	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
		Group report	?	report	reporting; groupwork	other tasks	Nil	25%	AL	AL: evaluate and discussing information, write report. IL: evaluate and effectively use information	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8
MGMT978	Review case study	Presentation	5	presentation	research; groupwork	Nil	Nil	25%	AL	AL: reading and discussing case study, present and generate discussion.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8



Findings

- Tertiary literacies difficult to identify
- Tried Graduate Attributes
- Literature reported some ideas ...
 - Two pairs of friends ...
 - Different levels of experience and skills
 - Peer assessment
- UOW Learning Development identified need for templates to support processes ... hence worksheet for group formation



Case Study

- Intended to trial in MBA subject
- Used at beginning of lecture 1
- Issues:
 - Some students arrived part way through
 - 61 students and only 2 English as 1st language
 - Instructions were awkward
 - Took longer than time available



Case Study

Conclusion:

- Trial context introduced some problems
- Not ideal for a 9 lecture subject
- More suited to tutorial context and smaller class size
- Able to improve instructions



Summary

- This trial indicates potential in this approach
- Worksheet to be placed on LD site
- Tertiary Literacies not well covered
- Graduate Attributes seem well covered
- Interest expressed by other institutions
... for resolving workplace issues



Future Directions

- More trials to provide input for enhancements
- Monitor other universities' approach to groupwork issues
- Publish results from this case study



Recommendations

- Make worksheet available on teaching support site
- Encourage lecturers to adapt and use
- Include peer assessment (individual marks)
- Request feedback from users
- Build groupwork into courses in controlled fashion



References

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