

GROUP LEARNING

DEFINITION OF A LEARNING GROUP

A collection of persons who are emotionally, intellectually, and aesthetically engaged in solving problems, creating products, and making meaning—an assemblage in which each person learns autonomously and through the ways of learning of others.



By *group*, we refer both to the learning of individuals that is fostered by being in a group and to a more distributed kind of learning that does not reside inside the head of any one individual. Rather than focusing only on what the individual knows, the goal is to build a collective body of knowledge; learning groups strive to create publicly shared understandings.

By *learning*, we refer to the learning processes and outcomes involved in solving problems and creating products that are considered meaningful in a culture (Gardner, 1983). Rather than focusing on discrete bits of information that can be produced via simple-answer questions, this type of learning is situated in real-world problem solving and engages students cognitively, emotionally, and aesthetically.

Share Ideas

Collaboration

Interaction

Discussion

Brainstorm

Community



Group Learning Techniques

Under this, care is taken to stimulate group discussions and other activities within a group to achieve the stipulated educational objectives. They are more suitable than individualised learning techniques for achieving objectives concerned with the development of inter-personal skills, problem-solving skills, oral-communication skills, critical thinking skills, etc.

Various group learning techniques are

Tutorial It provides students with a chance to express their individual learning difficulties and help the teacher to pay attention to each learner, individually. The teacher selects the topic and puts it for discussion in the group.

Seminar In a seminar, occasionally, one of the student of a group presents a written essay or talks. The techniques used in the seminar may differ from subject to subject and from one level of education to another. The contents of the presentation are discussed by the group within the frame of their pre-determined learning transactions.

Group Discussion In a group discussion, the students are free to ask questions and contribute to the discussion through their comments. Such discussions are used in case of large groups. It is usually used to reinforce the content of the course, already taught through the formal classroom lecture.

Group Project In a group project, a small group is assigned to the task of selecting a problem and conducting a study on it, while carrying out a group project work, skills for group work, group communication and personal development within the group are given emphasis. The interaction in a group teaches the learner, the basic principles behind adjustment in a societal framework.