

Setting Inquiry Group Norms and Expectations

When groups come together to work, they need to establish group norms and expectations so they can work productively and focus upon their selected inquiry task.

- Time:** 25 minutes
- Materials:**
- chart paper and markers, or interactive whiteboard
 - blank paper for individual groups to write their norms/expectations
- Grouping:** whole class and inquiry groups

Procedure:

1. Hold a whole-class discussion about the importance of working together in groups.

When we work together as a group, we are able to complete our task more efficiently. As a group it is important that we respect each other and share the workload evenly. I would like you to think about how you do your best group work so your group can work collaboratively. Also think about what you need to do when there is a problem within your group.

2. Explain to students that they will be creating a list of group expectations or “norms” in order for their inquiry groups to work productively and efficiently.

Like our class rules that we established together, you and your group will be creating group norms so your group will know what is expected of each group member as well as what to do when you have a problem to solve.

3. On chart paper or an interactive whiteboard, create a T-Chart :

How we work together...	How we solve problems...

4. Invite students to brainstorm ideas for each of the columns and record their thinking on the class T-Chart.

How we work together...	How we solve problems...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work co-operatively - everyone does the work they're supposed to - everyone has a turn to talk - listen to others without interrupting - be encouraging to others - respect others' opinions even when they differ from your own - stay on track during meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disagree in a friendly way - settle problems within the group - make a plan for next time

5. After the class has completed the brainstorming, invite students to break into their inquiry groups to create and complete their own T-Chart.
6. Once inquiry groups have completed their T-Chart, have students sign their names to indicate that they are all in agreement with these established norms.
7. Have groups keep these norms visible during their working time as a reminder of what they have agreed upon.

Teaching Tip: Prior to each inquiry group meeting, invite students to review their group norms as a reminder to what they have agreed upon. Additionally, after each work session, have groups reflect on how they worked together and if their group norms have been met during their work period. Be sure to circulate amongst the groups to support students in meeting their group norms.