

EASY TWO THREE – FOR GROUP WORK IN LARGE CLASSES

Purpose

Easy-Two-Three is an instructional strategy that is used to develop and assign students to more diverse groups for group work in large classes. Ensuring inclusive groups where students feel comfortable expressing their thoughts, but are also engaging with diverse individuals is critical for successful group work. This strategy allows students to identify up to three individuals they would like to work with in a group. The instructor balances those preferences with the preferences of the whole class to ensure students are with at least one student they know in a group.

Overview

At the beginning of the course, students are asked to identify one to two individuals (with a maximum of 3) that they would like to be paired with in a larger group for group work throughout the term. Based on the class selections as a whole, the faculty member forms group to ensure diversity while maintaining comfort levels. Each student will have at least one individual in their group from their submitted preferences. The groups do not change throughout the semester and the students become increasingly more at ease.

Context

This strategy was adapted for use from a strategy shared at the College Educators Development Program (CEDP). It has been effectively used in both face-to-face and online courses with large class sizes.

Impact

Easy-Two-Three for Group Work in large classes can help facilitate more authentic sharing of ideas between students in group settings. Students can share their ideas more freely and generally benefit from the ideas of others that they would not otherwise be in contact with. By ensuring that students have at least one individual in their group that they have previously identified as someone they are comfortable working with, it helps remove barriers to participation that typically arise in group work.