In the Company of Classmates: Forming a Study Group

Tips for Successful Group Studying

**Start Early.** Although it may seem too soon for studying, you should be thinking about forming a study group during the first week of class. Try to find four to seven students in each class who are interested in coming. Invite students who participate in class, take notes, ask questions, and take the class seriously.

**Develop Ground Rules.** A good study group is professional. That means you meet at the same time and place every week; you know what topics need to be covered; and you have decided how long the study group will meet (two to three hours is typical). The best time to study is as soon after your class as possible. Arrange a time and place that works for everyone. You may also want to discuss attendance and preparation expectations.

**Assign Roles.** Typical roles include discussion leader, time keeper, and note taker. Rotate roles so everyone has a chance to participate.

**Know the Syllabus.** Go over the syllabus during your first study group session and review important dates (e.g., project due dates, quizzes, and exams). Know where you are going and try to study ahead so you are familiar with the material before your professor covers it.

**Be Prepared.** Come to every study group having reviewed your notes and reading assignments.

Once you have organized a study group, there are several strategies you can use to effectively review your course materials.

- Ask each other questions
- Compare and contrast your notes
- Drill each other on exam material
- Brainstorm ideas for projects and papers
- Share information you’ve gained in your research

~ PERSIST, 2009, ECMC

**TAG your Strengths!**

Every TRiO student takes the Strengths Quest assessment when they join TRiO to find out what their top 5 Strengths are. Students will now begin exploring how these strengths can help them become more successful college students. During TAG meetings in October and beyond, TRiO staff will work with students to help them learn more about their Strengths and how to apply them here in college. Areas of focus as we move through the year will help TRiO participants to:

- Define excellence in their academic lives.
- Discuss how their strengths can be applied to achieve academic success.
- Evaluate their general academic goals in light of their talents and strengths, as well as other personal qualities and external considerations.
- Evaluate academic and cocurricular opportunities in light of their talents and strengths.
- Apply knowledge of their talents and strengths to decision making.
- Appreciate the role their talents and strengths play in making them their own best educator and learner.
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TRiO / Student Support Services is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Education. Federal guidelines are used to establish program eligibility.