



ways to maximize EL STUDENT LEARNING IN GROUP WORK

Questions for self-assessment with expert "do's and don'ts"

1

Have I established and reinforced group work **norms and procedures**?



Create, instill, and enforce group norms that reflect cultural awareness and opportunities for all to participate.



Avoid introducing new activities and new content at the same time.

Effective group work starts with **ELs' culture** in the classroom.

2

Have I designed the task to be an **effective learning opportunity** for ELs in the group?



Strategically consider **strengths, language, and personality** when assigning groups.



There needs to be an **authentic reason** for a group to work together.



Group work **cannot consist of the same work** students are able accomplish independently.

3

Have I **structured supports** for my ELs to participate in and learn from the group activity?



ELs may need a variety of supports. Identify the language needed to participate in the group activity and pre-teach when necessary.



If a group activity does not go as planned, **do not give up.** Sometimes you just need to re-rehearse procedures.



ELs and fluent speakers benefit from **mini-lessons** on topics such as ways to politely express a difference in opinion.