LEARNING TECHNIQUES

LESSON 10-5 ▲ STUDYING IS A TEAM SPORT

**LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES**

* Students will describe the purpose and benefits of a work or study team.
* Students will develop a plan to create a study team for school.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* **Student Handouts:**
* Study Team Checklist
* **Large sheets of paper** (two sheets for each group of students)

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

1. **Smart phone (or other related device) brainstorm.** Divide students into small groups of 3 to 6 members each. Then tell them that each team is competing to win an award for designing a brand new and innovative smart phone. Ask them to take 5 minutes to brainstorm the different types of skills they will need on their team to succeed. Note that students are NOT asked what features their new phone should include – instead they’re being asked to list the different types of skills the people working on the smart phone should have so that they can come up with successful features and actually build an innovative new phone. After 5 minutes, Compare the groups’ lists. Students may note that their team will need software expertise, to develop an operating system for their phone and develop new apps; hardware expertise, to build a phone that actually works; design expertise, to make the phone look good; manufacturing expertise, to get the phone mass-produced; telecommunications expertise, to make sure the phone can make calls; marketing expertise, to sell the phone. What other types of expertise have students listed?
2. **Discuss the purpose of study teams.** Continuing with the smart phone example, explain that in nearly any workplace, people work in teams. In fact, working as a team – just as in sports – is the best way to succeed. No one person can be good at everything, so successful teams recruit people with a variety of different skills. Now ask students if they think this team approach could work at school. Have them return to their groups and jot down another list of the types of skills they might want in a study team. Give them a few minutes, then have the groups share their lists. What types of skills do students identify as the most valuable? Explain that just as with the smart phone team, a successful study team should have students with a mix of skills. That way students can help others in their strong areas and get help in areas where they are not as strong.
3. **Plan a study team.** Distribute the *Study Team Checklist* handout and review it with students. Then have them work individually to complete the checklist. They do NOT need to share their work with anyone, so they can feel free to list other students they might like to invite to join a study team and to honestly assess their own skills and weaknesses. Tell them that their “assignment” from this lesson is to ask at least two other people (in this class or in others) to be part of a study team with them.
4. **Practice the concept of study teams.** Take a simple, universal content area and form teams and see how students would help each other learn the material. For example, students could be asked to do any of the following:
* Learn all 50 states and capitols (or, for more advanced students, learn all of the countries in another continent)
* Learn the steps of the scientific process
* Learn and apply 10 vocabulary words (you could even use readiness vocab!)

**STUDENT PRODUCTS**

* **Completed *Study Team Checklist.*** Each student should complete a plan to create a study team.

 **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND OTHER INFORMATION**

* The following resources are helpful for students just beginning high school and their families, to help them navigate the transition to high school as well as the college admissions process.
* **Know How 2 Go:** [www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org)
* **First in the Family:** [www.firstinthefamily.org](http://www.firstinthefamily.org)

In addition, if your school offers a mentoring or tutoring program or other learning opportunities for students, this would be a good opportunity to share those resources with students and families.

LEARNING TECHNIQUES

LESSON 10-5 STUDENT HANDOUT

 STUDY TEAM CHECKLIST

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Getting something done – whether it’s winning a sports championship or developing a best-selling smart phone – usually requires a team. Doing well in school is no exception: you’ll be a stronger student if you can form a study team. Here’s a checklist of 5 tips to form a strong study team. Read the checklist, then use the right side of the page to develop a plan for your own study team.

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| **TIP 1: DIVERSIFY YOUR SKILLS** | Your plan: what are your skills & weaknesses? |
| * Identify what you do well and where you need help. What can you contribute?
* Build a study team of people with different skills. That will make the team strong.
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| **TIP 2: LIMIT THE SIZE** | Your plan: who could you invite? |
| * Limit your team to 3-6. Too many people will make it difficult to concentrate.
* If you want to be in study teams with lots of friends, form a study team for each subject.
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| **TIP 3: STICK TO THE TOPIC** | Your plan: how can your team stay focused? |
| * Don’t use study team time to gossip.
* Make a schedule for what you need to do in each subject each week.
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| **TIP 4: WRITE EVERYTHING DOWN** | Your plan: what notes will be helpful for you? |
| * Review your textbooks, notes, and other materials during study team time.
* Take notes on your team’s discussions. Use your team notes to prepare for exams.
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| **TIP 5: EVALUATE YOUR SUCCESS** | Your plan: what are your goals? |
| * Set a goal for your team’s work.
* Review your goals each quarter.
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