

Scenario 1

You post a list of project topics and allow students to self-select a group based on their interest in the topic. Halfway into the project, one group emails you to say that 2 of their team members, Adnan and Reagan, never attend their synchronous meetings. The group has been assigning them tasks, which Adnan has been emailing to the group. Reagan has been less consistent and has not answered the last 3 group emails. When you reach out, Adnan says that the group insists on meeting at 9AM EST, but he lives in California where it is 6AM and that it's hard for him to get up so early to meet. Reagan tells you that she works most days, so it's very hard for her to meet during the day. She also says that she told the group that she didn't feel comfortable with the tasks they assigned her because she had no experience in those areas. It made her shut down since she did not feel capable of contributing in those ways on her own. What changes would you make to forming project groups next time? How can you help support groups so that they communicate more effectively?

Scenario 2

A few days before the next project deliverable is due, you receive an email from Sheena, one of your students, informing you that one of her team members has seemingly disappeared. Adam has been absent from the past two weekly team check-in meetings, and did not submit his portion of the draft on the agreed upon date. Sheena writes that another team member, Jamele, has reached out to Adam, but did not receive a reply. With only a few weeks left, the team is getting frustrated by Adam's lack of participation, and is concerned about their ability to complete the project deliverable on time. How do you respond? What tools or strategies might you have employed to avoid this scenario?

Scenario 3

You design a project where student groups will be producing a business plan for a product idea. You have assigned students to groups based on survey data you collected from them about their strengths and interests to help ensure that each group has diversity in their experience and perspective. You receive the first drafts of the written report and it is clear that in many of the groups, each person completed their own section that were compiled into a team document based on their personal expertise. There are conflicting approaches in their compiled plans, as well as major differences in writing style. What kind of feedback do you give the group on their drafts? How can you build in scaffolding to help them work as a collaborative team instead of taking a divide and conquer approach?

Scenario 4

With about 2 weeks left before the final project submission is due, you have a scheduled check-in Zoom meeting with one of the project teams. They are presenting on the status of their project and sharing a draft of their submission. After a few minutes on the call, it seems that there must have been some miscommunication on the goals of the project, and you realize that the team is way off base. Given the short period of time before the end of the term, it is not possible for the team to start over. How do you respond? What tools or strategies could you have employed to avoid this scenario?