Group Grid

WHAT IS IT?

In *Group Grid,* group members are given pieces of information and asked to place them in the blank cells of a grid according to category rubrics which helps them clarify conceptual categories and develop sorting skills. It is a collaborative activity that uses a graphic organizer. Graphic organizers are powerful tools for converting complex information into meaningful displays. Because information can be arranged spatially, graphic organizers can help students discover the patterns and relationships among ideas that are sometimes impossible to convey in text alone.

ACTIVITY TYPE	TEACHING PROBLEM ADDRESSED	LEARNING TAXONOMIC LEVEL
❖ Group Work ❖ Graphic Organizing ❖ Learning Assessment	❖ Lack of Participation ❖ Insufficient Class Preparation ❖ Surface Learning	❖ Foundational Knowledge ❖ Learn how to learn ❖ Integration & Synthesis

WHY USE IT?

Information can be arranged spatially, graphic organizers can help students discover the patterns and relationships among ideas that are sometimes impossible to convey in text alone graphic organizers can help students discover the patterns and relationships among ideas that are sometimes impossible to convey in text alone. This technique is probably most useful in introductory-level courses where students are building basic schema, learning a large number of new terms, and trying to understand the categorization rules of the discipline.

HOW DO I DO IT?

1. • Clarify your teaching purposeand learning goals for Gropu Grid.
2. • Choose two or more related categories that organize course information.
3. • Create a grid along with list of items to be sorted
4. • Develop a plan for learning assessment or grading
5. • Communicate assignment instructions to students
6. • Allow students time to complete the Group Grid
7. • Reflect upon the activity and evaluate its effectiveness

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WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER?

- Form groups.
  - Give students the list of scrambled items of information.
  - Have students fill in the blank cells of the grid.
- Groups can discuss and come to consensus about how the items should be sorted and fill out the grid as a group project.
- Or individual students can take turns in a 'round robin' order filling in one cell per turn.
- Each person within the group, or each pair within a quad, can have their own writing style (cursive vs. printing) or colored markers to distinguish their contributions.
- Students submit completed grids for assessment and evaluation, or post a correctly completed grid for them to check for accuracy.

Assignment parameters are informed by the grid itself, so an important first step is to select two or more related categories that organize course information. The simplest grid sorts information into two or three columns. More complex grids have more columns, or they may contain a second level of sorting where the top horizontal row identifies one level of organization and the far left vertical column identifies another level of organization. The item placed at the point of intersection must meet both column and row classification criteria.

WHAT IF I WANT MORE?

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