



Study Group Planner

Study groups can provide a great opportunity to pool resources and to work with classmates to quiz yourself effectively, but they can be a waste of time without a plan. Use the form below to help you get the most out of your studying. Check out the back of this handout for more activities you can try while studying in a group.

STEP 1

Choose a timekeeper to help keep the session on track _____

STEP 2

Come with three self-quizzing questions prepared

- 1.

- 2.

- 3.

STEP 3

Set an agenda. For example, a good breakdown for a productive, hour-long session is: decide what you're going to work on (5 minutes), answer quiz questions (35 minutes), review what you learned (5 minutes), identify what you still need to work on (5 minutes), take a break (10 minutes).

What are you going to do?	For how long?

Group Read

What to do

Divide a difficult reading into chunks. Everyone read the same section independently, then take turns paraphrasing the reading without looking at the text. Identify the key points and significance. Move on to next section and repeat.

Why it works

Helps with motivation as well as comprehension and retention of difficult readings.

Make a study plan

5 minutes	Choose text
30 minutes	Read it
15 minutes	Discuss
10 minutes	Break

Share Your Notes

What to do

Identify items you missed or did not understand from lecture. Share notes with group to fill in these gaps. Take turns explaining difficult concepts to each other or work together on a practice problem that uses the difficult concept.

Why it works

Filling in gaps in your notes ensures that you have all the information you need to study at exam time. Do this every week!

Make a study plan

5 minutes	Identify gaps
20 minutes	Share notes
25 minutes	Explain/Practice
10 minutes	Break

Test Prep

What to do

Bring flashcards with key terms or quizzing questions. Put all cards in the middle of the table. Select questions at random. Take turns answering questions without looking at your notes. Evaluate what still needs work and repeat.

Why it works

Explaining ideas helps you check whether you know the material. Answering unfamiliar questions more closely resembles the test experience.

Make a study plan

5 minutes	Set-up
20 minutes	Quiz
15 minutes	Evaluate
10 minutes	Break

Math Quiz

What to do

Bring a problem that you know the solution to. It should be similar to ones in your recent homework set and ideally be checked for quality by your TA or a tutor. Exchange problems with a partner and work them. Check each other's solutions.

Why it works

Working unfamiliar problems without using the book can show you what you know and what needs more work.

Make a study plan

5 minutes	Set-up
30 minutes	Work problem
15 minutes	Check solution
10 minutes	Break