

Assessing the Impact of Teamwork Best Practices: An Intervention Analysis

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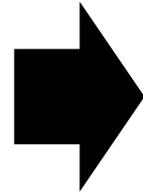
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How does the implementation of teamwork best practices affect student perceptions of team citizenship and engagement?

Last Semester:

POLS 4392 – Interest Groups & Advocacy

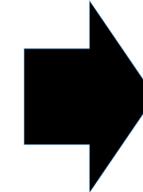
- Select from list of clients and advocacy issues
- Devise and describe an effective advocacy strategy
- Allocate budget to various tools
- Make recommendation



Interventions

(Oakley et al. 2004, Smith et al. 2005, Cestone et al 2008):

- Practice teamwork exercise
- Smaller teams
- Time availability team formation
- Team ownership (naming and client selection)
- Team engagement agreements
- High level of instructor priming
- Peer-review weighted grading (citizenship and engagement)



This semester:

POLS 3310 – Public Policy Analysis

- Form public policy consulting group
- Identify government client and problem
- Devise evidence-based policy solutions
- Evaluate solutions according to effectiveness, cost efficiency, and feasibility
- Make recommendation



“Being able to stay in contact throughout the week helped us to be able to seamlessly exchange ideas and come up with solutions that were acceptable to the whole group.”

“Everyone was willing to put in their input and work together. We communicate over email through out the whole project, and even all met early on the day of the presentation”

“[The team was] very supportive, and they practiced with me, they gave me their input on what I was doing wrong or right and what I could improve. They helped me so much and I could not have asked for better teammates.”



Findings

- Variation in engagement across teams persisted
- High levels of cohesion within some teams
- Limited effect of team agreement
- **Best practices useful, but instructor monitoring critical**