

SPH3U:**How Groups Work**

Each group needs a whiteboard, marker and cloth. Assign each group member one role: Manager, Recorder, or Speaker. If there are four people in a group, two will act as the speaker. Working well in a group is a bit like acting in a play, we all have roles to perform!

Recorder:

Manager:

Speaker:

Part A

Manager: Ask the group to complete the next two questions individually, without any discussion. When you see that everyone has finished, have the group move on.

Complete the following two questions *individually*.

1. In your experience, what are some of the enjoyable characteristics of working in groups?
2. In your experience, what are some of the less-enjoyable characteristics of working in groups?

Work together now. On your whiteboard compile a list of the group's responses to each question.

Manager: Organize the discussion and ask for ideas from each group member.

Recorder: Neatly summarize the ideas on the whiteboard, write large enough so other groups could read it if you were to hold it up.

Speaker: Be prepared to speak to the class about your points when your group is called upon – if any points are unclear, ask your group questions.

We have all experienced difficulties working in groups. Sometimes, the challenge comes from within – for whatever reason you, as an individual, are unable to contribute effectively to the group. Other times, another group member may make the proper functioning of the group difficult.

Part B

Think about the reasons why a group might not function at its best. Make a list of the reasons in the chart below – be specific. However, do not mention the names of any individuals. This is not a critique of your current group or any others you have been in.

Reason Groups Might Not Work Well.	Actions

Describe what specific actions could be taken to help the group work better in each case you listed above. Indicate which group member (R, M, S) would be best to carry out the action, or if it is an action for everyone (E).

Part C

Create one example of a group related problem AND how you may solve it.