

## Putting Your Heads Together

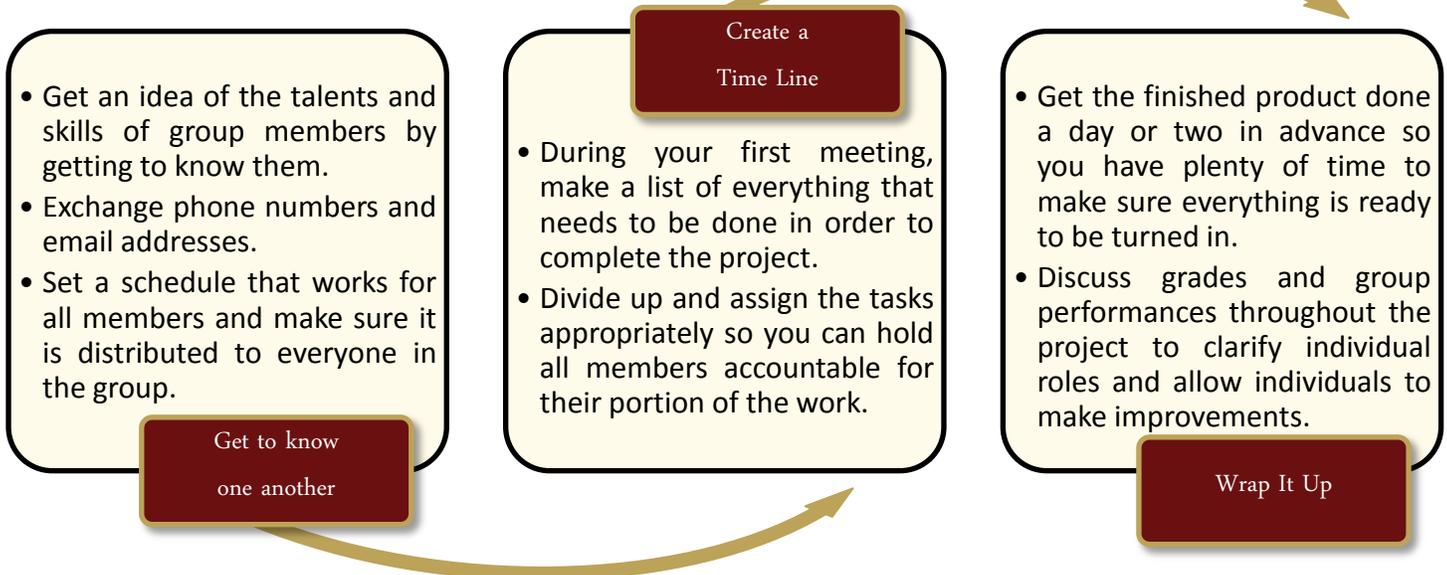
Working in groups seems to be more loved by instructors than students. However, learning to work effectively as part of a group is a valuable skill you will use frequently in your career as a student and after college.



### So how can I make working in groups less painful?

You can start by assuming your experience in the group will be a good one.

Projecting a positive attitude will likely have a favorable impact on those around you. Rather than comparing this experience to those you've had in the past, recognize it as a new opportunity with new people!



### What about dealing with my group members?

- ❖ **Effective Communication:** There will be times when the work is being done differently than you think it should, and that's okay. Being sensitive to the thoughts, opinions, and ideas of others is part of learning to work in a group setting and keeping the interaction of all group members productive.
- ❖ **Doing Your Part:** It's as simple as attending all meetings and completing the work you commit to doing. If you have to miss a meeting, send your work ahead of time to the other members of the group.
- ❖ **Uncooperative Group Members:** In nearly every group, there is usually one person who may not cooperate. Carefully evaluate to see if your criticism of a member is merely a personality conflict, or if there really is a specific problem. If other group members have similar reactions, then it may be useful to consult with the instructor to develop a solution.

Adapted from Utah State University – Skills for Group Projects