

Life Cycle of a Blackboard Group

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Planning stage

- What kind of group?
- How will the group be managed?
- What discussion questions will I use?
- What kind of project will...
 - Engage my students?
 - Focus students on core curriculum topics?



Creation stage

- Create Blackboard groups
- Provide helpful names and descriptions
- Ask: "What tools will I make available?"
- Add students
- Post engaging discussion questions



Creation stage

- Provide clear parameters
 - Directions
 - Rubric
 - Time table
- Appeal to the 'universal learner'
 - Images
 - Clear text
 - Graphs, tables
- At this stage, group areas unavailable to students



ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Preparation stage

- Prepare students!
- Get them acquainted with each other early
- Provide links to help pages



Management stage

- Be available to answer questions
- Be ready to mediate conflict
- Occasionally monitor discussion threads
- Mid-way through, have groups assess their effectiveness



ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Large class discussion stage

- Facilitate large class discussion
- Make group discussion threads available to larger class



Assessment stage

- Two types of assessments
 - Individual assessment
 - Group assessment



ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Review stage

- Evaluate projects
 - Not engaging enough?
 - Not clearly defined?
- Evaluate groups
 - Too large? Too small?
 - Management strategy didn't work?
 - Group tool not appropriate for this kind of group?
- What do I need to change?



Re-creation stage

- Copy groups to new Blackboard course
- Implement changes decided on during review stage



ADDITIONAL NOTES: