Making Team Projects Work

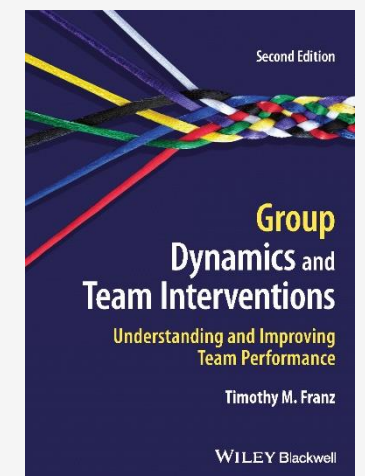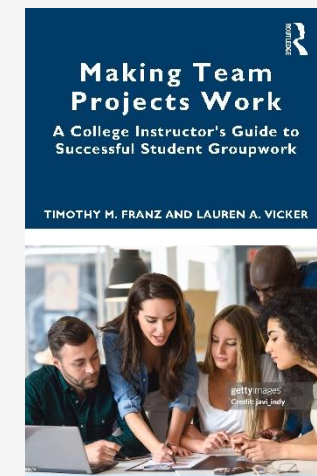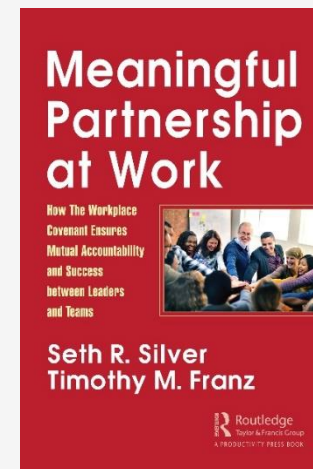**Five Tips to Improve
Your Student Team Projects**

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with Lauren A. Vicker

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- Professor at St. John Fisher
- Author
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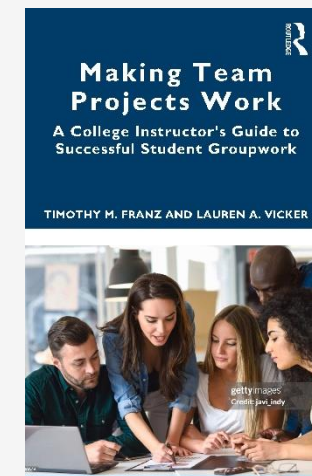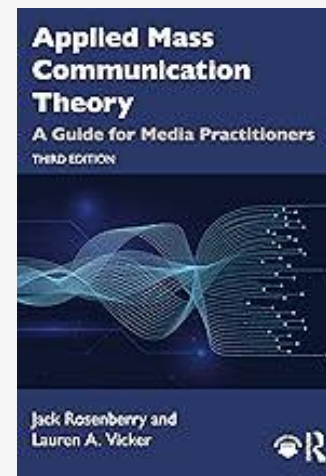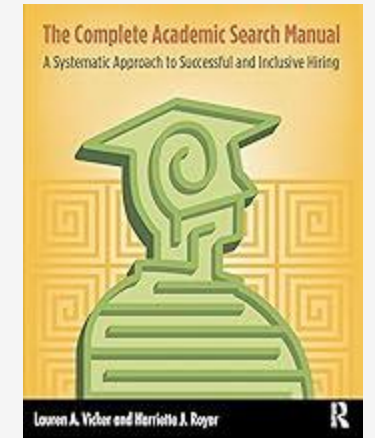- Parent, Husband, & Community Volunteer

Lauren A. Vicker

- Professor Emeritus, SJF
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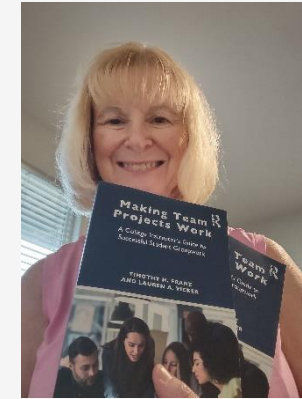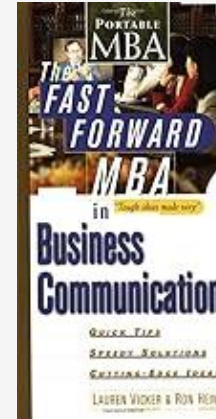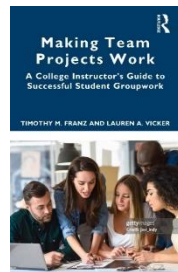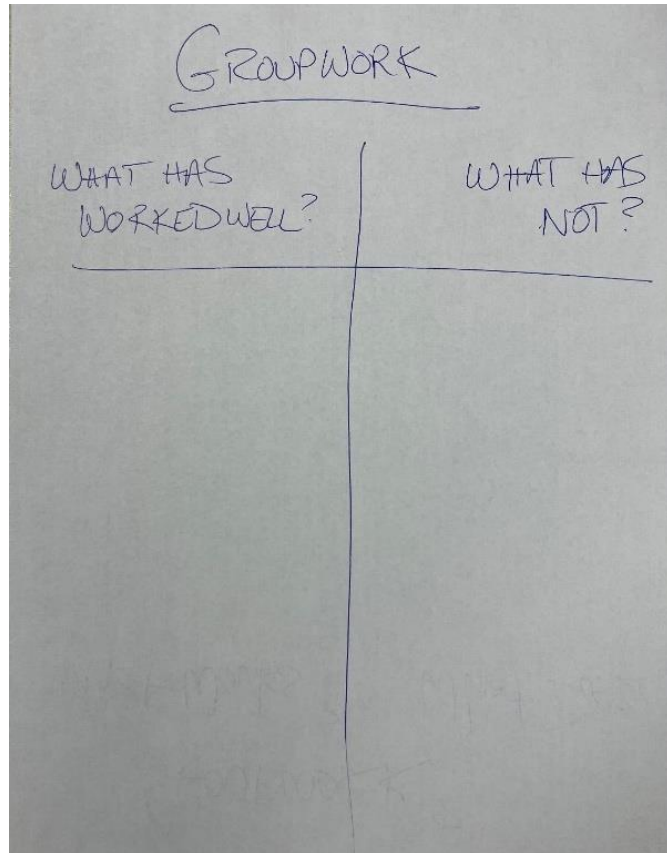
Your Thoughts: Groupwork & Team Projects in the Chat

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Best Practices Tip #1
Assign Students to Groups

It Depends, But…

Self-Selection is **NOT a Best Practice!**

- Groups require diverse backgrounds
- Self-Selection doesn't diversify groups
  - Similarity-Attraction from Psychology
- It's not the real world
- People are left out
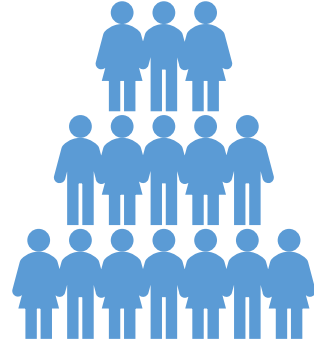
Tip #1 (continued)
Best Ways to Create
Groups and Teams?

- Use a Transparent Process
  - Random
  - Criteria that randomizes
  - Form teams intentionally
- Then Start with a Team Charter

Best Practices Tip #2
Use Groupwork to Engage Students

- Think, Pair Share
- Group Discussion Questions
- Learning Thru Discussion
  (by Hill)
- Each One, Teach One (a peer-learning strategy)
- Run a Team Project

Best Practices Tip #3
Managing Group Conflict

- Set Objective Task Criteria
- Separate the People from the Problem
- Focus on the Goal & Shared Interests
- Generate Many Possible Ideas
- Ongoing Group Dialogue
  - Start, Stop, Continue

As a Last Resort: Get Involved!

Best Practices Tip #4: Evaluating Teamwork

- Start with the End in Sight
  - Think about your rubric
  - Share your rubric
- Incorporate Ongoing Feedback
- Decide on the Weighting
  - Peer vs Instructor?

Component		Comments
Presentation Content: --*task, people analysis* --*group dynamics* --*outcome analysis*		_____/30 points
Data Analysis: --*explanation* --*presentation*		_____/20 points
Delivery: --*organization* --*appearance* --*eye contact*		_____/10 points
Use of Visual Aids		_____/10 points
Handling Q&A:		_____/10 points
Use of Time:		_____/10 points
Group Portfolio: --*appearance* --*organization* --*content*		_____/10 points
GRADE:		

Best Practices Tip #4 (continued)
Tips for Peer Evaluation

1

Prepare Your Teams

2

Train Your Teams

3

Peer Evaluation

- Create opportunities
- Separate developmental and performance feedback

Video: Teaching Peer Feedback

Best Practices Tip #5
Improving Virtual Teamwork

1. Start teams with face-to face meetings

2. Schedule regular face-to-face meetings

3. Include extra work on teambuilding

4. Know your tools

5. Teach to the tools

6. Match the tool to the task

7. Remain organized

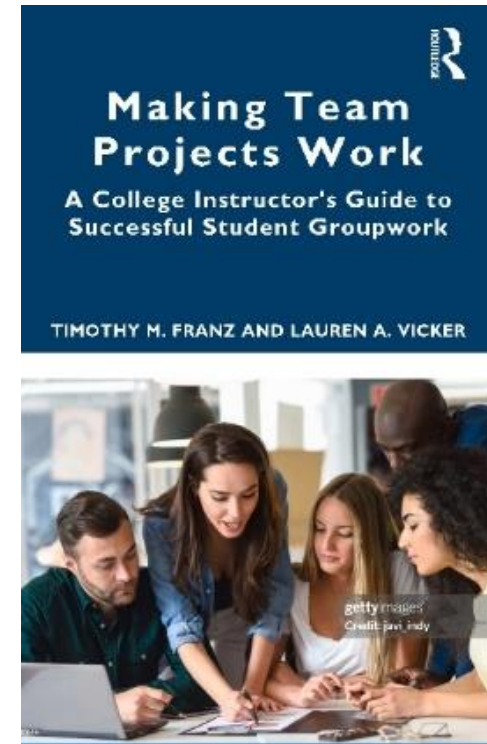8. Appoint a leader who understands virtual work

Your Turn:
Open Dialogue

Based on today's program, what is one thing that you will do to improve groupwork and teamwork in your class?

Questions?

Thank you!

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