

Group Work

Group work can be a great way to start a community in the classroom. It not only allows for the teacher to sit back and hear what students understand or do not, it also introduces students to their peers. This can help tremendously in establishing an energetic classroom environment.

Here are a few resources with tips on group work:

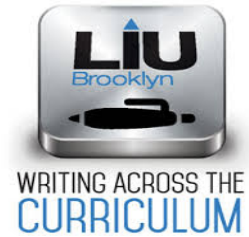
<https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/alternatives-lecturing/group-work/implementing-group-work-classroom>

<https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/developing-assignments/group-work/group-work-classroom-types-small-groups>

<http://brooklyn-wac.org/instructors/instructor-toolkit/group-work>

The following is an example of an in-class group exercise leading to formal essay.

While the focus here is “Frankenstein”, it can be applied to other subjects as well.



Phase I: Group Exercise - *Frankenstein*

As you begin, choose a group recorder who will take notes on the group's discussion (including consensus and dissent), and begin the group's presentation to the class. The recorder should also read the following instructions out loud:

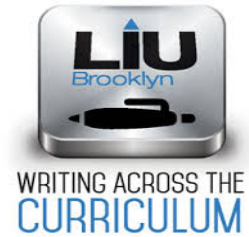
Consider the following two statements:

1. *Frankenstein* expresses anxieties about scientific technology.
2. *Frankenstein* expresses a woman's anxiety about pregnancy and childbirth.

First, each member of the group should state, in a few words, a working definition of the word "anxiety." Try to arrive at a consensus about what this term means in relation to the novel.

Next, discuss each position individually. Which specific scenes support each viewpoint? How?

Last, decide which viewpoint your group finds more convincing. Why?



Phase II: In-class essay

Based on the position you took in the Group Exercise, write an in-class essay arguing whether the novel *Frankenstein* expresses anxieties about scientific technology OR of a woman's anxiety about pregnancy and childbirth.

Phase III: Formal Paper

After class discussion and writing an in-class essay on the topic, define "anxiety" and write a formal paper on the topic of anxiety in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.