Group work transcript

What tips do you have for organising group work online?

Dominick Goggins 0:10-0:28

I find group work is pretty much very similar to how I would organise group work in the face-to-face lesson. I'd have a checklist with clear tasks on it, there would be objectives, there's very clear instructions. I check in with my students regularly to make sure that they are progressing to where I want them to be and I give students the opportunity to ask questions.

Ava Khalfaoui 0:28-1:36

Online group work can prove difficult because you need to be able to allow them time, but you also need to be able to supervise them. One way to overcome this online is to use something like Zoom where you can allocate breakout rooms so that they can work in their groups. This can be random groups, or you can manually assign them. And they can work for the duration of the Zoom lesson. You can be added to their breakout rooms if they ask a question or you can just join, this way you can manage the time and the supervision. Outside of the lesson, if you are not on Zoom or similar, you can ask them to share with you their planning document, something that is real time, either a Google Doc, Google Slides or Padlet or something similar, so that you have a way of supervising them and also seeing how much time they spend on it.

Hira Parveen 1:36-2:28

It is not easy but possible. You need to know your learners inside out and you need to plan it properly. You can create ability groups or mixed ability groups depending on the type of activity you are conducting. Use Google Docs, it is the most convenient for group work. So if you want learners to label a diagram or collaboratively fill out a table, you can share a Google Docs link with each group and they can conveniently work on it from using their own devices from their home. Also there is a tool called Padlet, using which, the learners can collaboratively create flowcharts which we use a lot in Science.

Can you give an example of a successful online group activity? Why was it successful?

Hira Parveen 2:31-3:33

I once conducted this online activity in which my learners were working in groups to create videos explaining the structure of the skin. So my learners divided the task themselves into finding the content, creating a video and adding narration to it. Then using software and tools like Movie Maker, Wevideo and Animoto, they were able to create videos. So this activity was successful because it was different from regular group activities and students nowadays, they love to make videos. And also I gave them the autonomy of the software that they wanted to use, so they had freedom. And lastly, I ensured that the learners in each group they get well along with one another so that they don't argue amongst themselves.