

## Important Elements of a Successful Study Group

1. Leadership Someone in the group has to be motivated to learn the material and willing to help others in the group learn it as well, even if some people in the group don't seem willing to learn or do anything. The more leadership the group has, the more that will be learned in shorter time periods.

2. Purpose The primary purpose of meeting is to do any homework that is assigned. There may always be confusion over some topics, but getting the homework done helps students more than any other factor of a study group. In doing so, members should help everyone in the group understand the problems or agree to ask for help with certain problems in the next class.

3. Time and Place Meeting at the same place and the same time is important. Have a weekly meeting for homework that is more difficult and a special meeting before tests. Make it a priority.

4. Group size matters My experience is that the larger the group, the tougher it can be to get things done. Groups of 3-6 are best, but even 2 people can be a successful group. If there are more than 6 it can turn into a party. It all goes back to reaching the goal of getting homework done. If everyone in the group learns and gets homework done then it is successful group.

5. Length of meeting During a study hall, the entire study hall should be dedicated to the study group or that person shouldn't attend. It takes at least 10 minutes to settle into work, and most assignments take more than a half hour so the entire period is needed. On a weekend, two hours is probably the longest that a group should plan to work. You could get burned out if you study longer than that. (Unless there is a test looming and members need to review the chapter, that could take longer, but shouldn't be as draining as learning it the first time.)