10 minutes

Overview:
This optional activity assigns students a specific role. It adds another layer to focus on which adds more work, but also gives students specific jobs which may be helpful. The downfall I observed is that students may feel tied to their role, so if they are a recorder, they would not think to be part of a facilitator. On the flip side, assigning a student who normally is a recorder, now will get the chance to be a facilitator.

Objective:
Students will be able to become different roles in a project.

Big Idea:
You can either assign these roles and switch them mid-project, or week-by-week, to have students get a fuller perspective on what it feels like being each type of person in a project. This keeps an additional layer of PBL, so it is optional, but if you feel ready to add roles, here they are.

Materials & Setup:
None

Activity:
Simply assign each role to students, specifically give roles that students are not naturally in class. For example, it's helpful to assign the roles that are "outside their comfort zone" unless specific students have specific plans that prohibit these basic roles.

If you do assign these roles, it is recommended to have a team model what these roles look like, sound like and act like and you can join in as an acting team participant (playing the role of someone who's not acting the role well for instance, taking out you cell phone).

Facilitator

Gets the conversation started. Makes sure everyone knows the task.

"Who knows how to start?"

"Does everyone get what we are to do?"

"Are we ready to go on?"

- Checks with absent teammates to make sure they have all assignments and have make up work
- Write absent members names on all logs
- Passes out all papers to team

Recorder/Reporter

Gives update statements on team's progress.

Organizes & introduces the information given.

"We need to keep moving so we can…"

"Did everyone get that information?"

- Takes notes during discussion
- Organizes assignment if only one paper is to be turned in

Resource Monitor

Collects materials and resources the team needs.

Calls the teacher if there is a team question. Organizes clean up.

"Do we all have the same question?"

"We need to clean up. Can you…while I…?"

- Maintains items/materials needed and returns items
- Contacts teacher if necessary
- Checks clock and tells team how much time is left for assignment

Team Captain

Enforces use of agreements and encourages participation.

Find compromises. Substitutes for absent jobs.

"Remember, no talking outside our team."

"We need to work on listening to each other."

"Let's find a way to work this out."

- Keeps everyone on task and following team agreements
- Makes sure everyone is participating