Assessment With a Twist
Group Portion of Test as a Learning Opportunity

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The Project
Experiment with a group work portion for unit assessments.

How it works
✓ Give students their normal unit assessment.
✓ Give them 2/3 of the block to complete
✓ Collect the test and have them get in their work groups (≤ 4 people).
✓ Hand out a blank copy of the test to each group and have them take it.
✓ Grade is 85% individual / 15% group score.

Why it works
✓ Students are most interested in how to solve a problem right after they have done it.
✓ Assessments are learning opportunities and the group is acting as the instructor.
✓ Often when you give back the test days later, you don’t have time to go through every question.
✓ Even if there is time to go through the test, many students are no longer interested in trying to learn the concepts.

Variations
✓ If time is an issue, try giving only part of the test (the traditionally missed questions) to the group to redo.
✓ Have students work on designated group questions prior to the exam.
✓ If time is an issue, have them only redo questions that someone in the group got wrong (skip the ones they all already got right).
✓ The scoring of the group piece is arbitrary, and can be modified.

Self Reflection
1) How comfortable do you feel with THIS material?
   Scale:
   1  I have no clue what’s going on!
   2  I understand a few of the concepts.
   3  I have a moderate grasp on the material.
   4  I feel confident in most of the concepts.
   5  I feel very confident with everything we have learned.

2) Was going through the test again with your group beneficial to you?
   YES   NO

3) If you said, YES, explain why: ___________________

4) If you said, NO, explain why: ___________________

Testimonials from surveys:
“If you found it beneficial, why?”

“It allowed me to see the mistakes I made. Now I believe I could get these questions correct.”
“It is reassuring to go through it, just knowing you aren’t alone with some problems is nice.”
“It gave me a chance to do better and talk out problems I wasn’t sure about.”
“It got to work through the problems and understand them with my group’s help.”
“Talking about work with others helps me learn easier.”
“It gave an opportunity to discuss concepts and develop ways to remember them.”
“We are able to brainstorm and see different ways to solve.”
“It really helped me understand the material I missed.”
“I like going through the test to review anything that might not have made sense to me.”
“It helps me understand the material from a different point of view.”
“I was able to fix silly mistakes I made on the test (and learn to do the questions I was stuck on).”
“Because someone in the group may have a better grasp of a concept than I do and it helps for review.”
“It was helpful to see how other people explain how they approached the problems.”
“Hearing other people explain the concepts to me gave me more confidence.”
“I’m actually learning from my mistakes. Makes me feel less anxiety and up to date more.”
“Individual test taking gives people anxiety. Being in a group better helps me focus and truly understand what I’ve learned.”