

Delegation of Authority
Narration for PowerPoint Presentation

SLIDE 1

In the galaxy of education, groupwork is becoming the MO of many educators. But for groupwork to be successful, educators must decrease the amount of direct supervision, and increase his/her delegation of authority.

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SLIDE 2

What is “delegation of authority”?

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[Click, definition zooms from center]

Delegation of authority is the process by which I, the teacher, decrease direct supervision and increase the student’s responsibility for his/her own learning. Gone are the days of the teacher being the lone source of information and knowledge. Today, students are dependent upon one another for their education. Delegation of authority allows students to be more active in their education, not passive receptacles of information.

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SLIDE 3

But for groupwork and delegation of authority to be successful, certain essential criteria must be met.

[Click, slide title boxes out]

We have 4 essential components for success.

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Students must understand the cooperative norms. These norms would be posted throughout the classroom. Also, students would have experience with these norms via “skillbuilders”. The purpose here is for students to understand proper interaction with each other, and to understand the fundamentals of groupwork.

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Students must understand the roles. In order for the students and the groups to be successful, the students must know their roles, and the responsibility of each role. It is important for the teacher to make sure the students understand these roles, and has given the students familiarity with each role. Then, when the teacher delegates authority, the students are aware of what they are supposed to be doing for their group.

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Students must receive clear instructions. If the groups are to be successful when authority is delegated, then they must know clearly what the task at hand is. Otherwise, frustration levels increase, and group performance will decrease. Also, the students then become dependent upon you, the teacher, as a resource rather than one another as a resource.

[Click, fourth essential flies from left]

NO HOVERING! Allow the students to work on their own. Making mistakes is a necessary part of learning. Hovering defeats the whole purpose of delegating authority. If you hover, they will come.

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SLIDE 4

[Click, title boxes out]

What are the benefits of delegating one's authority in the classroom?

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Delegating authority allows students to interact and talk with their peers. Now of course students interact and talk with one another all the time, usually during class time, but nothing academic. Delegating authority gives the students an opportunity to interact, talk, and share ideas about concepts, and problem solving. They engage each other in intellectual ways.

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This also gives students an increased understanding of the subject material. We have all heard the saying "Two heads are better than one", and this puts that saying into practice. Students have a chance to learn from one another, drawing from each other's strengths.

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Also, this gives students an opportunity to learn how to "work and play well with others". This is a skill necessary to be successful in many of the jobs out on the market today. Working in groups and having authority delegated to them is common in many large companies, such as Microsoft, or IBM. These students will be at an advantage in their future employment if they learn the skills now.

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SLIDE 5

So what's in it for me, the teacher, to delegate my authority?

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By delegating your authority, you, the teacher, has more time to truly observe your student's interactions and discussions. You can hear what they have to say. You can see how they interact. This gives you the chance to take the students to the next level of their development.

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Delegating authority changes your role as a teacher. You are no longer just a transmitter of information. Your role has been raised to a much more demanding and higher level. Your role is to guide students through the process and the information. Your role is to stimulate the students by asking questions and offering guidance, not answering their questions directly. In essence, you are their Yoda!

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SLIDE 6

Delegating your authority is like being Yoda, a master who leads the young padawan learners to a higher level of understanding, to a higher level of mastery. You are Yoda!

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You can now offer students wisdom, guiding them through the various tasks, but never taking their hands and leading them to the right answers, the right procedures. They must learn on their own. There are times to intervene, but one must intervene with caution. You are not abandoning your students, you are simply making the responsibility to learn theirs.

Guide them, lead them do not. Show them the path; walk the path they must.
[Click, picture and sound appears]

Delegating Authority

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