



The Buddy System:

Facilitating Learning Through Sense of Community

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Sense of Community (SOC)

- SOC is defined as 'a feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members' needs will be met through their commitment to be together' (McMillan & Chavis, 1986, p. 9).
- Examples of groups that experience SOC (Peterson, Speer, & McMillan, 2008)
 - church members
 - science-fiction fans
 - school children
 - firefighters
 - athletes (Warner & Dixon, 2011)



What can generate Sense of Community in a classroom?! Having a buddy!!

Self-Selected Pairs
or
Professor Selected Pairs

Single Assignment

- Critical Thinking Question
- Quantitative Problem
- Brainstorming

Course Long

- Semester Project
- In-class Teams
- Study Groups



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References

- McMillan, D. W., and Chavis, D. M. (1986). Sense of community: A definition and theory. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 14(1), 6-23.
- Peterson, N. A., Speer, P. W., and McMillan, D. W. (2008). Validation of a brief sense of community scale: Confirmation of the principal theory of sense of community. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 36(1), 61-73. doi: 10.1002/jcop.20217
- Warner, S., and Dixon, M. A. (2011). Understanding sense of community from the athlete's perspective. *Journal of Sport Management*, 25, 257-271.