



Success with Pair Share Study and Testing

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I teach an intensive Human Anatomy class with a laboratory component. In the course of the term, students are expected to learn to identify many structures. The final exam is cumulative so stress levels tend to be very high.

I have found that by encouraging students to work and study in pairs throughout the term, learning improves. I have even carried over this idea to laboratory exams by letting students take exams as partner pairs (over which I maintain veto power).

Pairs are permitted to confer quietly as they, together, complete a single answer sheet. Comparisons show stress levels decrease significantly and grades do not change significantly from previous performance trends. My students are much happier and relaxed and I have only one-half as many papers to grade.

