



Report on assessing the effectiveness of MS Teams and specifically the use of Breakout Rooms to carry out group activities in an on-line delivery situation e.g. during Covid-19 lockdown.



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How would you rate the use of MS Teams Breakout rooms for Group Activities?

Answer	Response	%
Not effective at all	0	0%
Slightly effective	3	18%
Somewhat effective	4	24%
Moderately effective	9	53%
Extremely effective	1	6%
Total	17	100%

Why do you think the breakout rooms were effective?

Because we can express our own views clearly and are easily remembered by some people

It's a good idea but it needs to be easier to find your room

Online video chats make different discussions taking place simultaneously in a given chat channel difficult, breaking the main group into smaller groups with individual tasks eases communication compared to any activity that might take place in the main chat channel.

Saving time and reduce the shy when meet others

Team activities are always great!

The online makes note sharing & collaboration much easier. Also, in a class most of the times...there are distractions from other teams who are discussing their topics...but in a breakout room it's just our group and was quiet convenient. At the end, when other groups presented, it was much easier to listen to them.

They allowed you to get in group discussions that you would normally be able to get in a classroom environment but feel held back on an online zoom meeting. Smaller groups where talking is encouraged leads to greater participation from those individuals. Some good ideas are found in these smaller groups and often different groups come up with alternative ideas

They were easy to use once I figured out how to use it

They were the best option in a bad situation. The trouble with zoom is getting people to interact and talk. But the online activities work well and the break out rooms make it easier

was able to work within groups, and feel more part of the class Down fall, was that we were not able to text write on the MS Teams white board, which made it difficult. Plus when the group had to share a Word or Excel document, had to have MS Teams open, for communications, and use One Drive at the same time to complete given tasks.

How do you think your experience in the breakout rooms could been improved?

1. I think everyone in the group should open their microphone and talk with each other. 2. I think each group should work together to write something down and combine all as a short report to show other groups. I think that only one person to represent the group to talk is not enough. Everyone should do something to contribute the group.

1. Students were sometimes unsure of which group to join, meaning that some groups were lacking people or took some time to get everyone joined. 2. It would be good to add functionality for students to write down ideas in a shared document so that everyone can feel comfortable to contribute. Some groups used a whiteboard app to jot down ideas but it was often difficult to read and understand.

How well did your group manage to stay on-track with the activity during the Breakout session?

Answer	Response	%
Not well at all	0	0%
Slightly well	2	12%
Moderately well	9	53%
Very well	5	29%
Extremely well	1	6%
Total	17	100%

How well did your lecturer support your group in helping you achieve the goals of the Breakout room tasks?

Answer	Response	%
Not well at all	0	0%
Slightly well	0	0%
Moderately well	4	24%
Very well	10	59%
Extremely well	3	18%
Total	17	100%

What did your lecturer do particularly well to support your group in the breakout room?

Because he can talk with every member in different team.
Dropping into the channel to ask questions about the tasks involved
Good discussion
He communicated well with each group to check progress and to offer other potential points for consideration.
Joined each breakout room individually.
Our lecturers will be divided into groups in advance, and their rooms will be arranged for us to discuss, and will urge us.
Sending the materials and tasks before the class so that I have enough time to prepare and David will go through my group during the discussion.
Setting out a clear task before entering the group was important. Also visiting the groups individually in breakout time to make sure we were on track and had got the main idea.
Sneaking in to our breakout rooms while we are having some discussion...and then providing some inputs after his listening. Maybe time was a factor, if extended will be more effective I guess.
The overall task and subtask were prepared well ahead of time making the transition to the breakout rooms seamless for anyone who made sure to check their email for the breakout task information. It could be beneficial for lecturers with classes that do not have associated lecture material on Moodle to send out a short email a day or two prior to a class with a short summary of what will be covered in the class, allowing students to do some preparatory revision for the class.
always went to each group and answered questions to make sure we were on the right track
yeah

What more could your lecturer have done to better support your group in the breakout room?

No comments

How well did the group presentations of the findings of the Breakout room tasks work?

Answer	Response	%
Not well at all	0	0%
Slightly well	4	24%
Moderately well	8	47%
Very well	5	29%
Extremely well	0	0%
Total	17	100%

What worked particularly well to support your group presentation of the Breakout room task?

As per any group presentation the most vocal delivered the report, this highlights the biggest issue with the system is that english as a 2nd language team members and people without microphones did not participate with the task or presentations

The note sharing & the other group points.

Visual aids to support any ideas brought up in the group discussions. Some students aren't comfortable with speaking in front of a large group and so the visual data can provide support. As mentioned above, it would be useful to find ways to improve visual presentations.

While oral presentation was workable it might be a good idea in future to have each group use a Google doc which can then be presented in the main chat channel by the lecturer at the end of the breakout sessions. This can be more information dense than an oral presentation.

again just trying to get people to interact

report and PPT

What could have been done better to support your group presentation of the Breakout room task?

Down fall, was that we were not able to text write on the MS Teams whiteboard, which made it difficult. Plus, when the group had to share a Word or Excel document, had to have MS Teams open, for communications, and use One Drive at the same time to complete given tasks.

More tools to write clear presentations that could then be shared. Maybe having the ability to add in photos from outside sources to describe in collages instead of drawings would have been better. When presenting not everyone gets their voice heard so it can often be more of the presenters view

Most member were either too shy or didnt have a mic to join in verbal discussions etc