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|  | STUDY GROUP CONTRACT |

## What is it?

A Study Group Contract is a list of values and expectations that a group chooses to uphold for the life of the group. Group contracts are great because everyone is involved in the process of choosing those values and expectations. They also push your group to proactively address a lot of the challenges that can cause a study group to feel unproductive or difficult.

## How do we make it?

There are several ways to make a Study Group Contract! The important part of this process is to make sure that everyone feels heard. Some groups may develop this list of values by discussing questions about what is needed for each person to feel comfortable and productive. Other groups may decide to start this conversation by having everyone submit answers anonymously before discussing as a group. The primary goal is to work together to prioritize 5-7 key values, but you may come to understand and connect more with your group members in the process! If your group will not have very many opportunities to meet, have everyone take a moment to think of a few answers to each of the following questions:

* What do I need from each member of this group to feel safe here?
* What do I need from each member of this group to feel productive here?

Often times, these questions may guide your group to identify values related to the following categories: interpersonal communication, environment, personal responsibility, and collaboration. Once these values are established, place them in a document titled, “Group Contract” and have everyone electronically sign it. We have provided a sample group contract for you on the next page!

## How do we use it?

It is a good idea to read through the values at the beginning of the first few sessions. The contract works as a reminder to the group about what and how each individual should to contribute in each session. While we can expect everyone to uphold the values of the contract, we all have bad days. In this case, your group can reference the contract to have a constructive conversation about how to handle any conflicts.

**NOTE:** Feel free to get creative with how you determine and display your group contract! This will be your first group product, and a very important one at that!

SAMPLE STUDY GROUP CONTRACT

This Study Group Contract defines the values and expectations that we will hold ourselves to for the life of this study group. The components of this contract are as follows:

**Value #1: No Judgment Zone**

 Each individual in this study group will avoid speaking or behaving in a way that would discourage others from trying their best to improve themselves. Members will do their best to respect the boundaries and identities of their peers.

 **Value #2: Constructive Feedback (Trust)**

 When any of us is struggling to understand something during a group session, each individual is responsible for providing only constructive feedback. Constructive feedback will be sought after and welcomed by each person in the group.

 **Value #3: Preparedness**

Each of member of this study group will come prepared with whatever materials are required for the session. Being prepared for group study is important for the collective achievement of the group and everyone to get the most of out our time together.

 **Value #4: Tangible and Measured Progress**

Each member of the study group will engage meaningfully in discussion and activities. This does not mean that everyone must speak, but instead emphasizes how important it is for everyone to contribute their strengths for the good of the group. We expect everyone to make measured progress in learning and mastering the content of this course together.

 **Value #5: Punctuality and Attendance**

Each member of the study group will arrive on time or reach out to another member to communicate their tardiness or absence. Whenever a member is consistently tardy or absent without notice, the group reserves the right to check in with said member to support them in whatever way they need.

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As a member of this study group, I agree to uphold the expectations and values mentioned above and will do my best to encourage others to do the same. If I feel that a member of the group has breached this agreement, I will do my best to address the issue in a kind and thoughtful way. I will also be open to feedback about my own contributions.

(Electronic Signatures)