

# Activity . . . . . ➔ 71

## Understanding group dynamics and avoiding conflict

### STUDENT HANDOUT

This activity is an entertaining and light-hearted way to get you to think about group dynamics and avoiding conflict when working in groups. You must work with your group members to produce a video that illustrates problems with group dynamics and conflict. The focus, content (the problems you choose to highlight), structure and type of video are group choices. When we next meet we will view all the videos, discuss the problems you have illustrated and work together to provide solutions to the problems.

You will need to research what is meant by group dynamics and think about the problems that can occur within groups when group members interact and work on a project together. This can include individual behaviour, group processes, interaction and relationships, for example. You will also need to think about how problems with group dynamics can lead to conflict, which can include conflict in relationships, structures, processes and tasks, for example.

When you produce your video keep it light-hearted. We want viewers to be introduced to the issues so that we can discuss them in more depth and find practical solutions, but we do not want viewers to be upset or offended by what they are viewing. Be creative and imaginative. Introduce humour if you wish: often it is easier to remember what you have learnt if the information presented is entertaining, light-hearted and humorous.

Your video should be no more than ten minutes long. We will view each video in turn, and hold a discussion after each to talk about the issues raised and to find solutions to the problems that have been illustrated. Your peers will be encouraged to ask questions about your video, so be prepared to provide answers, when required.

**Learning outcome:** By the end of this activity you will have a raised awareness of problems that can occur with group dynamics and understand how to recognise, and address, these problems so that conflict can be avoided in group work as your course progresses.