How to Have the Most Effective Study Group

The Group

- A small group of 3-5 people is usually best because there is enough people to have an effective discussion but not too many people where it causes some students to participate less.

- You should pick a group that you know will be effective studying the material. If you know that some of your friends in the class slack off or would prefer to socialize in a group maybe it wouldn't be a good idea to include them when you're trying to get work done.

- Decide as a group what should be your main way to communicate; email, group messaging, groupme, and other communication apps are good ways to make sure everyone is aware of the group discussion.

- Having one person be the leader of the group that communicates to other members meeting times and locations might also be beneficial.

- The group should meet regularly to develop a positive habit of absorbing the classroom information in another maybe even more effective way. If material covered recently in class is difficult or you have a big test coming up it may be wise to meet more than one time a week.

Before a Meeting

- Make sure every group member is on the same page about what you're looking to accomplish in the upcoming group meeting.

- Divide the lesson plan up between the group members, this will be effective when you meet because each member will be experts in their part of the material.

- If you're going over homework problems each of the group members should work through the problems before the meeting, that way you can be sure you get through all of the problems and focus on the ones giving your group difficulties.

The Meeting

- Come up with some type of structure for your meeting so you can stay on track and accomplish what you all are wanting to get through.
  - Between 30 minutes and 2 hours is recommended. Shorter than 30 minutes isn't really worth your group members time and if your meeting lasts longer than 2 hours it's likely that some group members would start to lose focus.
  - The first part of your meeting should allow your group members to ask questions about anything they didn't understand from the previous class or homework. The rest of your meeting can be working through problems or quizzing each other on material.

How to Have the Most Effective Study Group

- During the meeting students can lead/teach the group with their material that they specifically focused on that we talked about in the “Before a Meeting” section.
- You should use the last couple of minutes to wrap up the material and answer any remaining questions any group members have.