Exploring Roles Used in POGIL Groups

Why?

Most high school students respond negatively to working in groups, based on previous experiences as members of a poorly functioning and/or ill-planned group. The dynamics of the group can quickly become an obstacle to learning. In a process-oriented, guided-inquiry learning (POGIL) environment, the greatest overall learning occurs when each group is functioning well. To ensure effective functioning, you will take on a specific role and perform that role's duties in addition to completing the day's guided inquiry activity. You will change roles frequently (often every day), so that you become proficient at performing any role in any group setting. In this activity, you will explore the duties of each role and will consider how these roles interact to create a healthy, efficient group learning experience.

Model 1

Use the information from Model 1 (the role cards) to answer the questions below.
Be sure you **reach a consensus with your group before you write down any answers.**

1. Which role is responsible for keeping the group moving at a good pace?

2. Which role is responsible for slowing the group down so everyone can reach an agreement and write down the same answer?

3. List two responsibilities that every role has in common:

4. Which roles are only needed on days when you do a lab, use a computer, or use a calculator?

5. Circle the only four people who will need to move around the room during class. Indicate whether they will move during lab work, or during non-lab group discussion.

Document Control	Communication Specialist	Leader/ Manager	Time Manager	Reader	Cleanup Supervisor	Technician

6. Which two roles are most likely to come into conflict as they perform their duties? Explain your answer in a complete sentence.

7. Which role allows a team member to ask questions of another group?

8. The group member with which role will remind everyone to keep the bench neat during lab and is responsible for leaving everything as you found it afterwards?

9. If a group only has three members,
   a. which role(s) would work best as primary roles?

   b. which roles might work best as secondary roles?

10. Write the role who would be expected to make each statement on the line:

"Please make sure the sink is clean before you sit down."   _____

"Do we all agree on this answer?"   _____

"I'll go ask the Red group what they thought."   _____

"Is everyone ready for me to read the next question?"   _____

"I'll go get the chemicals we need."   _____

"Does anyone have any questions about what you are each going to do?"   _____

Extension Questions

11. What may be gained from working together in this manner?

12. Describe 1 – 2 ways that using specific roles might help groups to function more effectively to help every student learn.

13. Just by yourself, list any questions you have regarding the use of roles in group work: