Training Workshop for PLAs
Facilitating Group Work
REAL-WORLD SCENARIOS

For the scenario that your group is assigned, discuss the following questions and be prepared to report out to the whole group:

1) What problems is this group encountering?
2) What should the PLA do, and/or how could the situation have been avoided?

Group 1

You approach a group that is particularly quiet. One student is checking their Facebook page. Another is texting. Two are sitting together talking about an assignment for another class. You ask, “How are you guys doing over here?” and the texter replies “We agreed to meet outside of class to work on this later”.

Group 2

You receive an e-mail from a student in the course. This student complains to you that one member of the group rarely comes to class, and when he does come he is not prepared for the group work. The portions of the group report he has written are very poor, and other group members have to rewrite them. This slacker is a nice guy, and this student does not want to get this group member in trouble with the professor, but she is tired of doing all of the slacker’s work.

Group 3

You notice a particularly vociferous group in one corner of the room, and you approach the group to see what’s going on. One member is clearly agitated with the other group members, and insists that his way of completing the problem is just as valid as another way explained by the professor. The other group members disagree and are attempting to explain to him why his solution is not valid, but the agitated student continues (louder and louder) to refute them, saying “You must be stupid if you can’t see why this is right!”

Group 4

You approach a group that is working hard and seems to be collaborating well together. However as you listen in on their conversation, you realize they are completely on the wrong track, and are giving each other false information.