

MythBusters of Legal Education:

Using Small Groups to Build Belonging and Deepen Learning

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MYTHS

1. Learning in law school is an individual process
2. Only some students belong in and can succeed in law school
3. Using active learning sacrifices coverage



- Find 1 to 3 other people & make a group
- Include at least 1 person not everyone knows
- Elevator intros (5 seconds each)
 - Say hello - name and school
 - Shake hands/elbow bump/bow
 - Make eye-contact with all
 - Bonus: smile
- 3 minutes: Think. Share. What makes effective small group discussions?
- Identify 3 or more items as a group

What are effective ways to form successful learning groups?

- A. Students choose their learning groups
- B. Professor deliberately organizes groups; does not disclose how groups were formed
- C. Professor publicly sorts students and then randomly assigns to make diverse groups
- D. Professor randomly assigns students to groups, such as alphabetically or counting off

The background is a dark blue color with several white circular patterns. On the right side, there is a large circular scale with numbers from 80 to 210 and arrows pointing in different directions. In the center, there is a large yellow rectangular box containing the text "What helps you feel like you belong at AALS?".

What helps you feel
like you belong at AALS?

To maximize their learning, students should spend most of their time in class . . .

- A. Having the professor answer questions and clarify their misunderstandings
- B. Testing and extending their understanding by actively engaging with the subject matter
- C. Acquiring additional information about the subject matter
- D. Engaging in or observing others engage in a one-on-one dialog with the professor