

## Module 10: Social Psychology

### Topic 2 Content: Group Behavior Notes

To learn more about group behavior, read each of the questions below and click the ANSWER button for the response to the question.

Why do teams in professional sports tend to have an advantage when playing at home rather than away?

ANSWER

Why do only one or two members of a group end up working on a group project?

ANSWER

Why do so many people anonymously post hostile messages in online comment sections of blogs?

ANSWER

Why do people join clubs at school?

ANSWER

Why is it difficult to share your opinion when decisions are being made in a large group?

ANSWER

# GROUP BEHAVIOR FAQ



### Group Behavior FAQ

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#### Social Facilitation

*Social facilitation* is the phenomenon that straightforward and automatic tasks can be assisted by the heightened excitement of others watching. You may experience *social impairment*, however when a crowd makes you nervous, and skills needed to accomplish something are less automatic, like during public speaking or music recitals.



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#### **Social Loafing**

*Social loafing* is a consistent problem in groups, particularly when all members receive the same result regardless of individual effort or contributions. It is more likely when roles and responsibilities are not clearly defined.



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#### Deindividuation

*Deindividuation* occurs when people will likely not be identified amongst a group. If isolated, such negative or harmful behavior would probably not happen.



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#### Group Polarization

*Group polarization* occurs because people tend to spend time with others who share their viewpoints. Over time, these shared viewpoints will likely strengthen. This can be motivating and positive, but can also become extremism when outside opinions are ignored. It helps explain how terrorist groups are formed.



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#### Groupthink

*Groupthink* occurs when a group tries to achieve consensus at the risk of making poor decisions. Sometimes it happens because everyone agrees and other views are not represented, and sometimes members do not risk voicing a differing opinion.



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