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APPENDIX 2

Interview Questions and Prompts for Pilot interview

Interview Questions

1. Can you explain what do you understand by group learning?

Prompt: To see whether the participant's understanding of group learning matches with cooperative group learning. Explore their understanding of key elements in group learning, e.g. positive interdependence, individual accountability etc

2. Tell me about your group assignment.
3. What is required in group work?
4. Tell me how you all work together for the assignment?

Prompt: To understand their group learning experiences, what is the task and what do they need to do.

5. You mentioned you were doing ..., can you tell me when did you learn from that, where you used to apply it?
 - a. Gather key information
 - b. Identifying key issues
 - c. Generate ideas
 - d. Deciding
 - e. Evaluate
 - f. Communicate
 - g. Analysing
 - h. Arguing
 - i. Explain
 - j. Debate
 - k. Reasoning
 - l. Researching
 - m. Reading
 - n. Reflecting

Prompt: To understand their words that capture critical thinking processes

6. Do you think you have learned more from the group compared to doing it alone?

Prompt: Some may not be a fan of group work/group learning, to probe reasons for preference.

7. Did you feel that cooperative/ group learning :
 - a. reinforced your personal learning.
 - b. increased your level of performance.
 - c. increased your level of ability
 - d. encouraged critical thinking and problem solving skills
 - e. stimulated self confidence
 - f. Motivating one another
 - g. Encouraged interdependency
 - h. Encouraged individual accountability.

Prompt: To understand their perceived benefits of doing group work/group learning.

8. What are the benefits you gained from the group learning experience then?
Do you think these can be gained by studying all by yourself alone?

Prompt: To see they reiterate critical thinking and problem solving skills and as well as their preferences on learning individually or in a group.

9. What do you understand by critical thinking and problem solving skills?
Prompt: To see how participants explain their understanding about the two skills above.

10. Do you feel cooperative learning/ group learning is an appropriate method for promoting critical thinking and problem solving skills?
Why/Why not?

Prompt: See if the interviewee can expand upon this.

11. How do you go about solving a problem?

Prompt: To understand the process of deriving a solution, it may display critical thinking processes.

- a. Getting ideas from group members
- b. Solve the problem yourself
- c. Have an orderly way of deriving the solution.
- d. Discussing with others
- e. Listening and digesting what is heard/learned
- f. Debate and compromise with ideas
- g. Evaluating others' arguments
- h. Researching the subject matter etc.