

1. When conducting sociological and psychological studies, what are the ethical limits of group selection? Within any human research, ethics are a major consideration before any experiment can be conducted. With each participant being a unique individual with their own thoughts, beliefs, and unique perspective on both the experiment and the world at large, ensuring no harm is committed by the experiment is critical. Random assignment may prove effective if the participants have limited contact with each other outside of the experiment, however it is my belief that the most effective way to ensure ethical abuses are not committed is by properly vetting each participant prior to grouping. This prevents both conflicts of interest and general poor group results.
2. Social facilitation is the phenomenon of people within group environments being more successful than others who are not in a group. This can work backwards however, as if a group consists of poor-quality members, said members may be more comfortable with poor quality work. Although many social scientists have noticed this phenomenon, it is my opinion that the phenomenon is caused by a completely different force. If the pressure to succeed is low or a reward is not great enough, people and groups will fail to work for that goal. This is not a pressure exerted within the group, but a lack of pressure to achieve external to the group.
3. Social loafing is the phenomenon in which members of a group underperform due to relying on other members to achieve the set goal. How does loafing differ from group members allocating talent? Loafing tends to occur in low stress environments with plenty of other members in the group. The less pressure put on the group (small reward, small punishment, etc.) the less members of the group will care. This is separate from healthy groups, where members may have easier or harder jobs, but the type of job they do is best suited to their personality matrix.
4. Group cohesion is critical to building healthy groups. Many modern businesses and institutions spend money creating incentives to meet coworkers, but often these events fail to serve their intended goal. Organic group cohesion is the most effective way to build teams, as members learn each other's strengths and weaknesses and learn to use these to achieve their goals.
5. Groups often contain subgroups with unique dynamics separate from the main group. These subgroups may pose a problem for the main group, as members isolate and exclude other members. By building effective group cohesion, subgroups will cease to affect the main group.