Uncivil behavior creates a “digital divide” between online students & interferes with learning. We wanted to identify ways to decrease stressful aspects of group work in order to decrease unnciv behavior, narrow the digital divide, & improve the learning environment.

**METHODS**

**Inclusion Criteria:** Quantitative and qualitative articles about online education & group work published 2000 & later

**SEARCH TERMS**

- Online Education
- Group Work
- Collaborative Learning
- Distance Education
- Virtual Education
- Evidence-Based Education

**DATABASES**

- CINAHL
- Academic Search Complete
- Business Source Complete
- Education Full Text-H.W.
- Wilson
- Cochrane Library

113 Articles

**RESULTS**

Wide variation in types of evidence found did not allow for combining results, however the most common recommendations are provided below.

**Before Course (Course Design)**

**Incorporate resources into course**

- Emphasize:
  - Importance & benefits of group work
  - Benefits of collaboration for assignment

**Provide information about:**

- Group process monitoring
- Team/Team member effectiveness

**Provide tools for learners**

- Collaborative workspaces & multiple communication methods
- Group Charter
- Evaluations (Peer, Self, & Team)

**During Course**

Monitor group process

**After Course**

Evaluations (Peer, Self, & Team)

General course feedback

Group process & product included in grade

**CONCLUSIONS**

- UTEP student responses aligned with published resources
- Numerous resources available to decrease stressful aspects of group work
- Opportunity to decrease unnciv behavior, narrow the digital divide & improve the learning environment

**BACKGROUND**

**Group work** was identified as a common stressful challenge by students in the online graduate program at UTEP School of Nursing (UTEP School of Nursing IOLE Survey, 2014; UTEP School of Nursing Graduate Student Survey, 2015)

**Group Work is defined** as a subset of students within a larger class assigned to work together to complete a learning activity.

**PURPOSE**

Review of best practice recommendations for successful group work in online education from a review of literature & UTEP graduate nursing students.

**Population:** Graduate students in online programs

**Issue of interest:** Strategies for group work that facilitate civil & successful learning

**Comparison:** Current practice

**Outcomes:** Recommendations for creating effective group activities

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