

First Year Experience

Cowboy Challenge Group Assignment

Engaging with UW one challenge at a time...

This lesson plan was inspired by a University of Connecticut Lesson Plan Submitted by Kayla Brown

LESSON PLAN

This is a semester long assignment that STEP 1102 instructors can opt to incorporate into the semester plan – ideally it should be given out in the first week of class. It allows students to build bonds with each other outside of class and to engage creatively with the campus beyond the classroom. The assignment and challenges can be adapted depending on the instructor and student needs. Groups can be assigned prior to class starting and the assignment can be introduced in week one to allow groups to immediately connect and begin completing challenges. Incentives can also be offered during class time for groups to earn points and participate in friendly competitions.

Although this lesson was created as a campus engagement activity for the Student Learning Outcome #2, it fits in with each of the main learning outcomes for FYE by providing access to key areas on campus that are designed to improve:

1. Academic Skills (Learning about Learning)
2. Campus Engagement (the Cowboy Experience)
3. Personal Growth and Wellness Content

The following handout on pages 2-3 should be given to students in order to explain the assignment.

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INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

The purpose of Challenge Groups is to allow you to explore all that the University of Wyoming has to offer, build relationships with your peers, and engage in a little friendly competition. You will work in a small group all semester long to complete mini challenges, each worth a designated number of points. While only three of the challenges are required for your grade, the more challenges your group completes the more points you will earn and the more rewarding the experience will be. Additionally, at the end of the semester each challenge group will give a 5 minute presentation on their semester together, the experiences they engaged in, and what they learned through the experiences about UW as a whole (the more challenges you complete, the greater your presentation will be).

At the end of the semester, the groups with the top two highest number of points will receive extra credit towards their overall grade. The group that comes in first place will receive **10% extra credit** (that's an entire letter grade) and the second place group will receive **5% extra credit**.

This assignment will be ongoing over the entire semester with many opportunities to earn points for your team, some opportunities will be in class as well. I will update the class regularly on how many points each group has and what the standings are.

The goal is to have fun while learning about the campus and making memories along the way!

HOW TO COMPLETE A CHALLENGE

1. Complete whatever activity is associated with the challenge. Some challenges require that the group complete the challenge together while others may be individual. In the case that a challenge is completed individually, each member of the group must complete the challenge in order for the whole group to receive points.
2. Within one week of completing the activity, submit a brief write up (2-3 paragraphs) or reflective writing about the activity.
3. Include a photo of your group completing the activity proving that you did the challenge.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">COWBOY CHALLENGES TO CHOOSE FROM</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Each challenge should be accompanied by a reflective writing assignment in your journal. Some require additional information such as pictures or a worksheet to complete.</i></p>	
10 points	Get a meal together (pics or it didn't happen) - REQUIRED *can be repeated up to two times for additional points
10 points	Attend at least one residence hall sponsored workshop - REQUIRED *can be repeated up to two times for additional points
10 points	Visit the writing center to get assistance with one reflective writing journal - REQUIRED
10 points	Attend a RHA (Residence Hall Association) Meeting – Complete a Reflective Writing about the experience (each individually or as a group)
10 points	Complete the RSO Fair Scavenger Hunt (each person must complete for credit)
10 points	Visit a professor's office hours (each must do individually)
5 points	Sit next to a stranger in a dining hall (each must do individually)
10 points	Attend a campus lecture event of your choice (go together!) (can be repeated up to two times)
20 points	Volunteer together! Get involved in the community. See the SLCE office for easy ways to volunteer
10 points	Complete a challenge with another group
10 points	Attend an event in the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts (can be repeated up to two times)
10 points	Visit and learn about a museum on campus (can be repeated up to two times)
5 points	Hit the Half Acre gym together (maybe even attend a class) (can be repeated up to three times)
10 points	Attend a 7220 Entertainment event together
10 points	Attend an athletics event together
10 points	Visit the Multicultural Resource Center (each individually or as a group)
???	Your choice! If you can think of a challenge not listed here that you believe fits with this goal that your group wants to complete submit any ideas in an email explaining why you think the challenge should count for points.