

Structuring Teams - Determining Each Team's Focus

There are three different examples of team structures in project based learning: project management teams, expert teams, and role teams. You may have already determined each team's focus for your project. If you have not done so, review the following descriptions of the four team structures and see if one of the structures is a “good fit” based on your project design:

- **Project Management Teams-** Distribute tasks or topics so that each group is responsible for one part of the project, e.g., in a project to recommend solutions to noise pollution in the community, each group studies a different source of noise.
 - **Sample Driving Question -** How can we plan a campaign to increase participation in our school recycling program?
 - **Varying Each Team's Focus -** Assign each group a different region in the school on which to focus.
- **Expert Teams -** Under the umbrella of the same Driving Question, have students become experts on topics related to the driving question or study different times, events, and places with a common focus.
 - **Sample Driving Question -** How can we create a field guide for parents, teachers, and children to use when exploring our local park?
 - **Varying Each Team's Focus -** Assign each group to create one of the following sections of the field guide: Mammals, Amphibians & Reptiles, Fish, Birds, Trees & Shrubs, Plants.
- **Role Teams-** Assign students different roles or perspectives from which to provide answers to a Driving Question (e.g., when presenting views on a controversial issue, have students take the roles various stakeholders).
 - **Sample Driving Question -** How can we write and perform a skit that captures the experience of a child immigrating to America?
 - **Varying Each Team's Focus -** Assign each team to research the immigration experience of a different child. Vary the locations in which they settled in America.