

## Lab Hats

### Lab Roles and Their Descriptions

Cooperative learning activities are made up of four parts: group accountability, positive interdependence, individual responsibility, and face-to-face interaction. The key to making cooperative learning activities work successfully in the classroom is to have clearly defined tasks for all members of the group. An individual science experiment can be transformed into a cooperative learning activity by using these lab roles.

#### **Project Director (PD)**

The project director is responsible for the group.

Roles and responsibilities:

- Reads directions to the group
- Keeps group on task
- Is the only group member allowed to talk to the teacher
- Shares summary of group work and results with the class

#### **Materials Manager (MM)**

The materials manager is responsible for obtaining all necessary materials and/or equipment for the lab.

Roles and responsibilities:

- The only person allowed to be out of their seat to pick up needed materials
- Organizes materials and/or equipment in the work space
- Facilitates the use of materials during the investigation
- Assists with conducting lab procedures
- Returns all materials at the end of the lab to the designated area

#### **Technical Manager (TM)**

The technical manager is in charge of recording all data.

Roles and responsibilities:

- Records data in tables and/or graphs
- Completes conclusions and final summaries
- Assists with conducting the lab procedures
- Assists with the clean up

#### **Safety Director (SD)**

The safety director is responsible for enforcing all safety rules and conducting the lab.

Roles and responsibilities:

- Assists the PD with keeping the group on-task
- Conducts lab procedures
- Reports any accident to the teacher
- Keeps track of time
- Assists the MM as needed.

When assigning lab groups, various factors need to be taken in consideration;

- Always assign the group members preferably trying to combine in each group a variety of skills. For example, you can place an “A” student with a “B”, a “C” and a “D” or an “F” student.
- Evaluate the groups constantly and observe if they are on task and if the members of the group support each other in a positive way. Once you realize that a group is dysfunctional, re-assigned the members to another group.