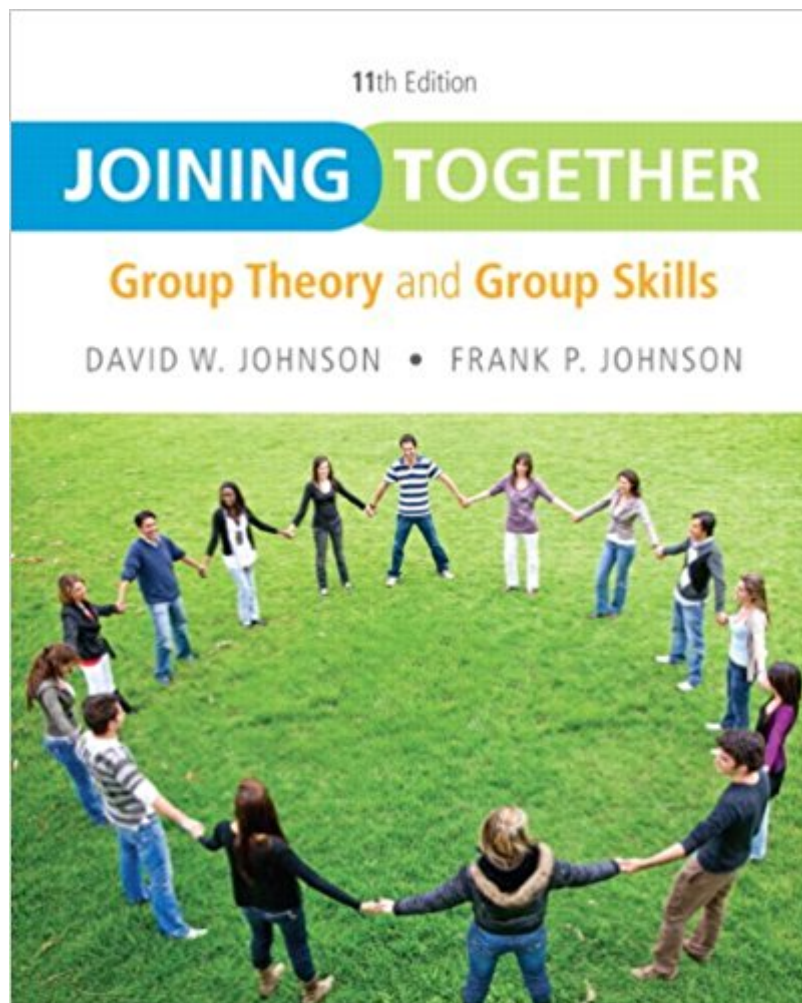


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# Joining Together: Group Theory And Group Skills (11th Edition)



## Synopsis

Joining Together introduces readers to the theory and research needed to understand how to make groups effective and, through exercises and thorough explanations, equips them with the skills required to apply that knowledge to practical situations.   Chapters discuss the history of groups and group dynamics, the nature of experiential learning, group goals, communication within groups, leadership, power, decision making, controversy and creativity, and conflict management.   More applied chapters focus on valuing diversity, cooperative learning, leading counseling groups, and team development and training.   The new edition of this best-selling text features:   New sections on controversy and creativity   New individual and group exercises   A focus on new technologies   Greater focus on minority influence, group goals, and diversity   and many other updates and changes.   Joining Together introduces readers to the theory and research needed to understand how to make groups effective and, through exercises and thorough explanations, equips them with the skills required to apply that knowledge to practical situations.  

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

>Joining Together introduces readers to the theory and research needed to understand how to make groups effective and, through exercises and thorough explanations, equips them with the skills required to apply that knowledge to practical situations.   Chapters discuss the history of groups and group dynamics, the nature of experiential learning, group goals, communication within groups, leadership, power, decision making, controversy and creativity, and conflict management.   More applied chapters focus on valuing diversity, cooperative learning,

leading counseling groups, and team development and training.    The new edition of this best-selling text features:    New sections on controversy and creativity    New individual and group exercises    A focus on new technologies    Greater focus on minority influence, group goals, and diversity    and many other updates and changes.

David W. Johnson is a Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota.    He is Co-Director of the Cooperative Learning Center.    He received his doctoral degree in social psychology from Columbia University.    His research areas include social interdependence (cooperation and competition) and conflict resolution.    He is a past-editor of the American Educational Research Journal.    He has authored over 500 research articles and book chapters.    He is the author of over 50 books, including *Reaching Out: Interpersonal Effectiveness and Self-Actualization*, *Active Learning: Cooperation in the College Classroom*, *Cooperation in the Classroom*, *Creative Controversy*, *Teaching Students To Be Peacemakers*, and *Cooperation and Competition: Theory and Research*.    He has received numerous awards from such organizations as the American Psychological Association, the American Educational Research Association, and the Interactional Association for Conflict Management.       Frank P. Johnson graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor of Science in Education and received a Masters of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School in Boston and his Doctor in Ministry degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological School. He has 35 years experience in the field of Applied Behavioral Science, with professional recognition from NTL Institute of Applied Behavioral Science, Association for Creative Change, Consultant/Trainers Southwest, and the Mid-Atlantic Association for Training and Consulting. He was employed for 13 years at the University of Maryland Counseling Center, teaching group counseling, and, during that time was a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Maryland School of Psychiatry and Human Behavior. He has written many journal articles, contributed chapters to books, and is the co-author of *Joining Together: Group Theory and Group Skills*. He has been a consultant with a variety of organizations, including educational, governmental, religious, and industrial. From 1984 - 1996 he was employed at Ethyl Corporation as a Human Resources Development Associate. Since his retirement from Ethyl, he has served as an Interim Minister in several churches and is now employed as a Chaplain for Canon Hospice in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.   

Great ideas for I/O psychologist to use, however, some of the chapter were a bit unnecessarily wordy.

Unlike some of the reviewers here who are rating a much earlier edition rather than the tenth edition), the text is quite useful and one of the more complete texts on group and team theory and and practice. If one were to want to find more in-depth information on specific theory and research, then he or she should seek out peer reviewed journals rather than an all-encompassing textbook that is designed as an introduction to group theory, which this is, albeit way overpriced...but aren't all textbooks?The unfortunate thing for online students is that there are dozens of face-to-face scenario and role acting lessons that would be invaluable if they could be applied; however, online students are faced with posting and dialogue with other students who can barely write, command little of English grammar, and are only looking to do the minimum, check the box, and move on. Contrary to one reviewer, these are indeed place strategically throughout the text where the role-playing either leads you into the following text, or reinforces previous text by example. Thin pages, thick book, and high price, but still an excellent reference for understanding and applying group and team theory. One more thing: if you buy this book on , you pay 50% of what colleges charge, and most online colleges now have this in e-book form, which is almost as much as the price.

Purchased for school

Great book. Used to get two masters degrees. Keeping them as they have valuable info that I can use in my profession.

The book is not ordered in a logical way. We used it in class and we called it the psychotic book because it jumps from one topic to the next without much explanations and does not group common topics together.

This book should fulfill an important function. Groups are ubiquitous and vital for the functioning of organizations in our society. Who can readily say that they do not interact with a group in order to solve a problem or make a decision in any work setting today? A text that provides a guide to help such groups operate should be a winner. This book used to be such. This edition falls short. Groups are part of everything that we do. We need a guide to help members of groups contribute to and leaders to facilitate that operation. We have been in groups virtually all of our lives and are, to some degree, experts in groups. But groups do not always work. A reviewer of a previous edition

complained that this book added nothing very much to what a person had already learned in sports teams and school groups. But to me, this missed the point. We may have learned some rules and skills in our previous interactions. But those skills and rules may well have been wrong, and possibly dangerous. A review of historical decision making and a study of the literature on the psychology of groups demonstrates the ways in which groups lead members to identify with evil leaders, proceed to bad solutions and adopt processes which lead a group to self destruct. A primer such as this should help teachers and facilitators unlearn some rules and learn new ones. But this is no longer a primer. It is a text. And as a text it falls down. In earlier editions it was brief and succinct. In this, it has become longer and fatter. As the literature on groups processes and group dynamics has grown, so has this book. But the point of a text, as a guide and a primer, is to continue to select out, to filter out the irrelevance and to present the essentials. This book seems simply to have added material where there is new literature. It has grown but has not been edited. Where it has grown, it has added material that has not reflected the social psychological literature in the world other than the United States of America. Countless references to material from Europe, central to arguments presented in the book, are simply ignored. This is sad. The authors could have done so much by acknowledging the contribution of modern contributions from outside of the United States. They could also have done so much for the field, and for themselves, by taking a red pencil and edit as much as 50% of the text. Then there would have been a contribution to the literature, and more importantly, to the application of the facilitation of group process to the operation of systems in society. Perhaps the 10th Edition is one too far.

I used this book for an elective course for school. Easy to read! There are many activities and resources to use! This would be a great resource for someone who is interested in learning about how groups of people interact and the significance of their interactions. Great tool for teachers!

Renting this book, I think I will actually buy a copy for myself. Excellent book

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