

Canvas Groups Vs. Sections

Both GROUPS & SECTIONS are clusters of students in Canvas, but each has a very unique purpose.



Think of GROUPS as a vehicle for:

- **group assignments** (can all share a grade or each get a different grade) &
- **potential collaboration**

Think of SECTIONS as a vehicle for:

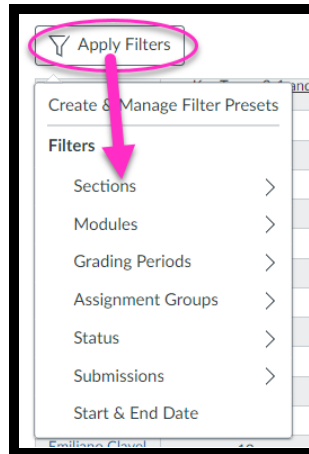
- **teacher organization &**
- **delivering differentiation**

Groups:

- Groups- used for group work.
- Students enrolled in the same group can work on and be graded on the same assignment.
- Canvas will expect only one submission for an assignment per group.
- Each group has its own mini course to interact with including calendars, discussion boards, shared files, and collaboration tools.
- Groups can't see other groups' assignments & resources
- Students can be randomly or manually assigned to groups.

Sections:

- Sections- a way teachers can organize students if they want to differentiate criteria, due dates & expectations, but still want them to complete the work on their own.
- Sections allow us to create bundles of students where like students can receive similar accommodations, but not reveal the name of students to other students. (FERPA)
- Students can be given different assignments entirely.
- Students in different sections have no idea someone else's content or information is different.
- Teachers can create an assignment for only one section.
- Announcements can be given on a section-by-section basis.
- Teachers can also alter due dates for different sections.
- When classes are cross-listed or "smushed all together," the process makes different sections in the same class.
- In the Canvas gradebook, teachers can use a dropdown menu to show people in each section. (**Apply Filters> Sections**)



Creating Groups:

1. To create a **Group** go to **People** in the blue course navigation & click the blue button that says **+Group Set**.
2. Establish a **Group Set Name**.
3. Establish different groups for each Group Set.
4. Choose group settings:
 - a. Decide whether to allow **Self Sign Up**,
 - i. Can give students 100% freedom to choose.
 - ii. Or can make students pick smaller groups within a sectionDetermine group size.
 - b. Determine **Group Structure**.
 - i. Create groups later.
 - ii. Split students (randomly) by number of groups.
 - iii. Split the number of students per group.
 - c. Decide whether to assign a group leader and if so how that person is distinguished.

People > Groups

Everyone Collaboration Groups Reading Groups Tech Projects Writing Groups

+ Group Set

+ Import +Group

1 CREATE GROUP SET. Determine what you need multiple groups

2 CREATE GROUP. Title the groups in the group sets something benign.

3 ADD STUDENTS TO GROUPS. If manually adding students, drag & drop students into groups into the group

Unassigned Students (67)

Search users

Groups (2)

▼ Catcher in the Rye

There are currently no students in this group. Add a student to get started.

▼ Lord of the Flies

0 students

There are currently no students in this group. Add a student to get started.

How to Assign an Assignment to Groups

Creating Sections:

1. To create a section go to the course's **Settings** in the course navigation (far left & blue words).
2. Click on the 2nd tab, called **Sections**. (top middle of the page that appears once you click on **Settings**).



3. Type a section name into the box & click the blue button that says **+ section**

Adding Students to Sections:

1. Go to **People** in the course navigation (far left & blue words).
2. Teachers will see all of their presently enrolled students. Click on the **skinny snowman** located on the far right of every student.
3. Click **Edit Section**.
4. In the search box either start typing the name of the section you want to add students to OR click the blue link that says **browse** and possible section titles will pop up.

[How to Assign Different Assignments to Sections](#)