**Difficulty Paper: Ideas about How to Develop as a Small Group Assignment**

The Difficulty Paper works brilliantly as a writing assignment for groups needing to engage in collaborative reflection, thinking and analysis ahead of a larger discussion or writing task.

Modeled on material from: <https://uminntilt.com/2015/06/09/the-difficulty-paper/>

The Assignment:

Step One: Take a few moments individually to think through what was most difficult part of the assignment/situation/task/study/problem. Then come together as a group and list all those difficulties as a group, taking notes. Find commonalities and choose one, or choose the concern the group on a whole is most interested in pursuing. (1pt)

Step Two: Why was this difficult? Brainstorm here and write down the general discussion of why you found this difficult. (1pt)

Step Three: Discuss ideas about what you could do to resolve this. What strategies would help you come to terms with whatever the difficulty is? Agree on one plan and write that down. (1pt)

Step Four: Now look at the resolution you have all agreed is the best and propose arguments that someone could make against that choice. Write down on of those arguments and how you would respond to it. (1pt)

In the difficulty paper proper, the students would then apply the strategy and evaluate how well it worked, suggesting any alternative approaches.