Mighty Minutes for Professional Learning
Denny C. Davis, Verity Design Learning

ABSTRACT
Authentic professional skills are best learned in real project settings. Brief just-in-time exercises based on concepts of “how people learn” produce professional knowledge and skills that enhance team project work and transfer directly to the professional workplace.

Challenge
Few students and faculty want to take time to learn professional behaviors.

Solution
Just-in-time professional development exercises bookend regular project activity for contextualized learning.

How People Learn
1. Connect new knowledge to existing knowledge
2. Draw from others’ knowledge
3. Formulate tentative understanding
4. Experiment with new understanding
5. Gain insight from experimentation
6. Learn from shared experiences
7. Adapt learning for future application

Professional Exercise

Preparation for Learning (5 min.)
- Introduce topic and relevance
- Discuss questions related to applying professional skill
- Consider principle stating thought-provoking perspective

Exploration of Learning
Project team members practice new professional behaviors as they engage in regular project activity

Elevation of Learning (5 min.)
- Reflect on personally practicing professional behavior
- Synthesize students’ shared learning from exercise
- Plan for future application of professional behavior

Student Valuing of Exercises

Understand Professional Issues
Improved My Behaviors
Appreciate Professional Issues
Think Professionally
Activity Worth the Time

(5-point scale) 3.5 4.0 4.5

Professional Topics
- Team management, relationships, communication, working together, working alone
- Design activities and records; how to prepare & conduct design reviews

- Teamwork Minutes: Exercises for Project Teams (ISBN: 978-1986795852)