

Collaborative Learning

Brynn Bowlin

What is collaborative
learning?

Collaborative Learning

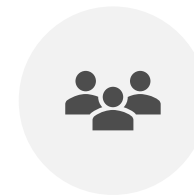
An approach to learning that involves groups of students working together to solve a problem, complete a task, or create a product.



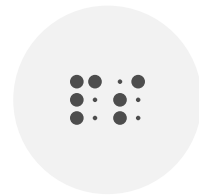
Active interaction
with others



Accountability to
others



Responsibility to
the group



Heterogenous
grouping



Positive
interdependency



Social skills
taught directly

What are some examples of collaborative learning?

Examples

Think-Pair-Share

- Propose a question
- Have the students think of an answer
- Pair up in groups and share their responses.

Organized Debates

- Organize debate teams
- Assign roles
- Provide topics for discussion.

Case Studies

- Prepare several case studies
- Have the students work them in groups
- Share their analysis with the class.

Problem Solving

- Place your students into groups
- Present a real-life problem for them to solve.

What are the benefits of collaborative learning?

Benefits

1 Problem solving skills:

Students must explore every possible solution to the problem given to them

2 Critical thinking:

Problem solving requires students to think through problems and potential answers

3 Interpersonal relationships:

By working together, students learn how to relate with one another

4 Oral communication skills:

Group work requires students to communicate effectively with group members.

Does collaborative learning
really work?

In My Classroom

Has promoted positive self concepts

Proven to raise their academic achievement

Raised my students regard for others

Developed their leadership skills

How do I implement
collaborative learning in my
classroom?

Before the Lesson

Environment	Develop a positive classroom environment
Acquainted	Become acquainted early in the year
Model	Model polite and respectful behavior
Reward	Reward students for helping others, compromising, etc.
Arrange	Arrange the desks so that they are pushed together into distinct groups

During the Lesson



Explain

Explain the rules: contributing to the team effort, listening to teammates, helping other classmates



Avoid

Avoid the temptation to lead the groups (you become the mediator of thinking instead of the transmitter of knowledge)



Intervene

Only intervene with the group discussions when necessary, they need to solve the problem on their own as much as they can



Reinforce

Frequently reinforce positive group interaction when you notice a student or a group working together effectively



Evaluate

Evaluate each group's performance while working in their groups as well as the assignment that they turn in to you

After the Lesson

Evaluations

Students:

- How well they worked together
- How successful their final product was

Teacher:

- Take a note of how well the groups worked together
- Grade how well their final product was according to the directions

Contributions

Students:

- Provide time for them to write what each group member contributed
- Make sure they are specific and detailed

Teacher:

- Ask questions that you may have about the participation of all group members

Improvements

Students:

- Each student shares one thing they can improve
- Each group decides something they can all do to improve group work

Teacher:

- Provide a few minutes for them to discuss how they can improve their group performance in the future.

References

<http://archive.wceruw.org/cl1/CL/moreinfo/MI2A.htm>

<http://www.behavioradvisor.com/CoopLearning.html>

<https://www.eztalks.com/online-education/advantages-of-collaborative-learning.html>

<https://teaching.cornell.edu/resource/examples-collaborative-learning-or-group-work-activities>