

Collaboration Benefits

| | |
|---|---|
| Develops complex thinking skills | <p>Critical thinking: Group discussions and debates foster critical thinking skills.</p> <p>Oral communication: Students share ideas, respond to questions and comments, and interact during collaboration, which helps develop oral communication skills.</p> <p>Problem solving: Groups tackle problems from a wider perspective and consider many more options than an individual would, developing problem solving skills through the support of the group.</p> <p>Metacognition: Collaboration focuses on the process of learning, which often includes the assessment of work, group interactions, and one's own contributions to the group.</p> <p>Creativity: Collaborative learning strategies are innovative and involve a variety of activities, encouraging students to learn and present material in interesting ways, including video, graphical illustrations, models, and so forth.</p> |
| Improves academic achievement | <p>Higher content retention: Students working in small groups tend to learn more of what is taught and retain it longer than when the same content is presented in other instructional formats.</p> <p>Deeper understanding: Students in groups often handle challenging situations that are beyond the capabilities of individual students.</p> <p>Learning goals achievement: When individuals get stuck, they often tend to give up; however, groups usually find ways to keep going and achieve learning goals.</p> <p>On-task behavior: Students in groups focus and engage on the task, and individuals who may otherwise disrupt class are less likely to be disruptive.</p> <p>Diversity of understanding: Students who work with people who have different learning styles, abilities, ages, or cultural backgrounds gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for individual and cultural differences.</p> <p>Scaffolding benefits: Students who have the support of scaffolds in collaborative learning are more successful in solving simple problems than those who do not have scaffolds.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| Addresses needs of all students | <p>Differentiation: The variety of activities during collaborative experiences allows the teacher to adjust assignments based on individual learning needs.</p> <p>Different learning styles: Students who collaborate often use a variety of learning modalities.</p> <p>Heterogeneous groups: Lower-performing students and higher-achieving students improve their performance when grouped together.</p> |
| Fosters social development | <p>Cooperation: Students learn how to interact positively and encourage each member for the benefit of the group.</p> <p>Interpersonal relationships: Students develop social interaction skills as they learn to work together and help each other.</p> <p>Conflict resolution skills: Collaborative learning helps students resolve disagreements through compromise and consensus.</p> <p>Global citizenship: Students who collaborate with peers around the world develop an understanding of different cultures and extend their learning.</p> |

*Panitz, T. (1999). The case for student centered instruction via collaborative learning paradigms. Retrieved from home.capecod.net/~tpanitz/tedsarticles/coopbenefits.htm