Collaborative Learning

Collaborative Assignments and Projects

What is Collaborative Learning?

- Collaborative learning are activities in which two or more individuals attempt to learn something together by discussing concepts and finding solution to problems.

What is Collaborative Learning?

- A group of individuals who are engaged in collaborative learning activities benefit from their combined resources and skills.
What is Collaborative Learning?
- The learner or student is the primary focus of instruction
- Interaction and “doing” are of primary importance
- Working in groups is an important mode of learning
- Structured approaches to developing solutions to real-world problems should be incorporated into learning.

Why is it a ‘High Impact Practice’?
- Combines two key goals:
  - Learning to work and solve problems in the company of others
  - Sharpening one’s own understanding by listening seriously to the insights of others

Why Collaboration?
- Important skill (life and career)
- Collaboratively get more
- Promotes application and engagement of content
- Helps develop critical thinking skills
- Allows for construction of ideas
- Builds social relations

Faculty/instructors are instrumental
- Create classroom community that supports collaboration/interaction (assigning or teaching?)
- Team Building

Faculty/instructors are instrumental
- Rubric for shared expectations & understanding
- Develop assignments that learners can clearly understand goals, objectives of learning activities
- Roles and responsibilities
Address Problems and Concerns
• Uneven distribution of effort
• Student push back
  • Explain why
  • Smart use of technology (virtual spaces)
• How are groups selected
• Time commitment

Barriers to Collaboration

Solutions
• Technology with pedagogy
  • Using technology only enhances the hands-on experience; it does not—and cannot—replace human interaction.

Solutions – Questions to consider
- Is the activity highly structured physically, digitally, spatially, and temporally?
- Do students know why they are doing the activity?
- How will the learning activity affect motivation?
- Will the introduced technology have a high learning curve?
- Can the selected technology provide adequate assistance for students to achieve each aspect of their tasks?
- Will it help mediate and support group interactions in a collaborative learning context?
- Will the technology serve as a barrier or facilitator?

Collaborative Learning Activities
• Organizing and planning
• Communicating
• Sharing and exchanging
• Presenting or demonstrating

Organizing and Planning
Organizing and Planning
• Blackboard Learn Collaborative Tools

- Group Tools
  Collaborations
  Flip Exchange
  Group Blog
  Group Discussion Board
  Group Journal
  Group Triage
  Send Email

- Group Assignments
  Team Case Study Analysis Assignment

Organizing and Planning
• Doodle

Communicating
• Trello.com

Communicating
• Blackboard Collaborative Tools
• Blackboard Collaborate
• Adobe Connect
• Google Hangouts
• Skype
• FireFox Hello
• Google Drive
• Etherpad (open source project)

Communicating
• Blackboard Collaborate (Ultra)
• Demo
Hands-on Activity

First activity

- Communication
  - Blackboard Collaborate (please use Google Chrome)
  - From the 2015 TWTI Resource webpage, scroll down and click on the Collaborative Assignments and Projects link.
  - In the ‘Demos’ section, click on Blackboard Collaborate Session. Please enter the Blackboard Collaborate session, and add your name when prompted.
  - Use the ‘Chat’ feature add to the discussion

Sharing and Exchanging

- Etherpad
- Rabb.it
- Scrible
- Google Drive
- A.nnotate
- Evernote
- Sketch
- Simple Surface

Sharing and Exchanging

- Etherpad — TitanPad
- Demo

Sharing and Exchanging

- Etherpad — TitanPad
- Create a public pad (no sign-up, start writing immediately)
  - Real time
  - Eight distinctive author colors to choose
  - Infinite Undo
  - Private space for a team on a subdomain for free
Sharing and Exchanging

• Rabb.it
  • Video chat - free
  • No download or installation
  • Share anything from the web (watch movies, listen to music or collaborate)
  • Up to 15 individuals

Presenting/demonstrating

Presenting/demonstrating

• Prezi
• Canva
• VoiceThread
• Google Drive (presentation)

Presenting/demonstrating

• Canva

Presenting/demonstrating

Hands-on Activity
Second Activity

• Sharing and exchanging relevant information - Collaborative Reflection
• TitanPad

Second Activity

• From the 2015 TWTI Resource webpage, scroll down and click on the Collaborative Assignments and Projects link.
• In the ‘Demos’ section, Under TitanPad, click on your assigned Pod link. Add your name when prompted.

Second Activity

• You are asked to reflect on today’s experiences with your Pod mates and share at least one HIP and an accompanying technology (or more) you might consider trying during the 2015-2016 school year.

Wrap-Up

• Questions??

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