



Research Brief

Cooperative Learning Skills

Question: Are there any protocols or processes that help build the collaborative skills of students beyond "divide the work and conquer" collaboration?

Summary of Findings:

According to Concept to Classroom:

Collaborative [emphasis added] learning is a method of teaching and learning in which students team together to explore a significant question or create a meaningful project. A group of students discussing a lecture or students from different schools working together over the Internet on a shared assignment are both examples of collaborative learning.

Cooperative [emphasis added] learning is a specific kind of collaborative learning. In cooperative learning, students work together in small groups on a structured activity. They are individually accountable for their work, and the work of the group as a whole is also assessed. Cooperative groups work face-to-face and learn to work as a team.

Cooperative Learning is one of the best researched of all teaching strategies. The results show that students who have opportunities to work collaboratively learn faster and more efficiently, have greater retention, and feel more positive about the learning experience. Needless to say, this is not to say that students can just be put into a group and assigned a project to complete. There are very specific methods to assure the success of group work, and it is essential that both teachers and students are aware of them. Recently there has been criticism of this process, largely as a result of its misuse.

It is only under certain conditions that cooperative efforts may be expected to be more productive than competitive and individualistic efforts. The Cooperative Learning website at InTech (<http://edtech.kennesaw.edu/intech/cooperativelarning.htm>), a technology professional development program designed, implemented, and tested by the Educational Technology Center at Kennesaw State University, identifies and explains 5 Elements of Cooperative Learning. Those conditions are:

1. Positive Interdependence
2. Face-to-Face Interaction
3. Individual & Group Accountability
4. Interpersonal & Small-Group Skills
5. Group Processing

InTech's Cooperative Learn page also explains 9 Class Activities that use Cooperative Learning:

1. Jigsaw.
2. Think-Pair-Share.
3. Three-Step Interview.
4. Round Robin Brainstorming.
5. Three-minute review.
6. Numbered Heads.
7. Team Pair Solo.
8. Circle the Sage.
9. Partners.



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Online Resources:

Cooperative Learning

Cooperative learning is a successful teaching strategy in which small teams, each with students of different levels of ability, use a variety of learning activities to improve their understanding of a subject. Each member of a team is responsible not only for learning what is taught but also for helping teammates learn, thus creating an atmosphere of achievement. Students work through the assignment until all group members successfully understand and complete it.
<http://edtech.kennesaw.edu/intech/cooperativelarning.htm>

Concept to Classroom

The site features a series of FREE, self-paced workshops covering a wide variety of hot topics in education. Some of the workshops are based in theory, some are based in methodology - but all of the workshops include plenty of tips and strategies for making classrooms work.

<http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/index.html>

Concept to Classroom: What are cooperative and collaborative learning?

Collaborative learning is a method of teaching and learning in which students team together to explore a significant question or create a meaningful project. A group of students discussing a lecture or students from different schools working together over the Internet on a shared assignment are both examples of collaborative learning. Cooperative learning is a specific kind of collaborative learning. In cooperative learning, students work together in small groups on a structured activity. They are individually accountable for their work, and the work of the group as a whole is also assessed. Cooperative groups work face-to-face and learn to work as a team.

<http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/coopcollab/index.html>

The Jigsaw Classroom

Welcome to the official web site of the jigsaw classroom, a cooperative learning technique that reduces racial conflict among school children, promotes better learning, improves student motivation, and increases enjoyment of the learning experience. The jigsaw technique was first developed in the early 1970s by Elliot Aronson and his students at the University of Texas and the University of California. Since then, hundreds of schools have used the jigsaw classroom with great success. The jigsaw approach is considered to be a particularly valuable tool in averting tragic events such as the Columbine massacre.

<http://www.jigsaw.org/>

Cooperative Learning

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http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/cooperative/front_cooperative.htm

A Definition of Collaborative vs Cooperative Learning

Ted Panitz (1996)

<http://www.city.londonmet.ac.uk/deliberations/collab.learning/panitz2.html>

Cooperative learning

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooperative_learning

Technology Online Teacher Resource – Cooperative Learning

Links to helpful resources

http://www.teach-nology.com/currenttrends/cooperative_learning/



The Principals' Partnership
<http://www.principalspartnership.com>
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The Cooperative Learning Network

The Cooperative Learning (CL) Network is an association of colleagues at Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning who model, share, support, and advocate for the use of cooperative learning. The goals of the CL Network are to:

- advocate for the educational benefits of CL
- encourage the initiative of a coordinated plan to implement CL through college programs
- maintain the current CL Network activities through shared leadership
- mentor each other and seek outside expertise
- learn and model a variety of CL structures

The Curriculum Conversion Project identified Cooperative Learning as one of the alternative teaching strategies. – great resource links

<http://www-acad.sheridanc.on.ca/scls/coop/cooplrn.htm>

The International Association for the Study of Cooperation in Education

IASCE, established in 1979, is the only international, non-profit organization for educators who research and practice cooperative learning in order to promote student academic improvement and democratic, social processes. IASCE supports those who are interested in the study of cooperation in education by providing a forum in which to share research and lessons about the practice of cooperative learning. IASCE supports the development and dissemination of research, particularly educator research and inquiry that foster the understanding of cooperative learning.

<http://www.iasce.net/>

Cooperative Learning

Two heads learn better than one

by Roger T. and David W. Johnson

A clear article from the leading experts on Cooperative Learning. Includes sections on basic definitions, what the research suggests, and how to structure cooperative interaction.

<http://www.context.org/ICLIB/IC18/Johnson.htm>

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<http://www.principalspartnership.com>

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