

Florida Southern College Teaching and Learning Center

Collaborative Learning

Collaborative Learning embraces an active and engaging process that supports groups of two or more individuals seeking to explore and better understand various issues that impact our society.

Key elements of Collaborative Learning include:

- individuals work together to create knowledge
- knowledge is produced by consensus
- the process enriches the individuals
- the instructor is a *member* of the learning community
- students must be actively engaged in the acquisition of knowledge
- group-work must be structured

Research supports and validates Collaborative Learning outcomes:

- increased academic success
- increased student participation
- increased student motivation
- increased student satisfaction
- increased student accountability
- increased student learning

Steps in Collaborative Learning (Barkley, Cross and Major, 2005):

1. orient the students
2. form groups (and assign roles, if appropriate)
3. structure the learning task
 - See Bloom's Revised Taxonomy and Engaged Activities handout
4. facilitate student collaboration
5. grade and evaluate Collaborative Learning

Resources for Collaborative Learning:

- Bloom's Revised Taxonomy and Engaged Activities handout
- Barkley, Cross and Major (2005). *Collaborative Learning Techniques*. Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, CA. ISBN 978-0-7879-5518-2
- Remember the 20-minute rule...