



Dear Colleagues:

"Collaborative learning" is an umbrella term for a variety of educational approaches involving a joint intellectual effort by students, or students and teachers together (Smith, MacGregor 1992.)



This edition talks about examples of what's happening on campus and provides a link to Cornell's web article explaining the many benefits of collaborative learning. You can read an article from Rochester University about "What is the best way to group students?" You'll also find tips for adding collaboration tools to your Blackboards.

From,
The Office of Instructional Technology, Design, & Assessment (ITDA)



Do you know about faculty cohorts?

GS-100 & CORE-110 faculty meet in weekly small groups for an hour to discuss course objectives,

set goals, and share resources. **From an instructor's perspective,** "Each group has a set discussion agenda where they talk about what they're doing for a class that week, big upcoming projects or tests, share self-created course materials, and overall exchange experiences and ideas. These cohorts have proven to be effective in the personal and professional growth of faculty which in turn allows for a great course experience for the students. It's an excellent way to get to know faculty across campus, learn tips and tricks from your colleagues, and be an overall motivator!"

If you have faculty teaching the same course across multiple sections, think about putting them in cohorts!



Why use collaborative learning?

The benefits of collaborative learning include:

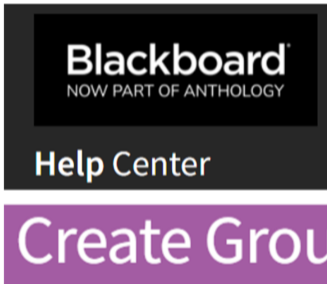
1. Development of higher-level thinking, oral communication, self-management, and leadership skills.
2. Promotion of student-faculty interaction.
3. Increase in student retention, self-esteem, and responsibility.
4. Exposure to and an increase in understanding of diverse perspectives.

To learn more, click [here](#).

What is the best way to group students?

A new approach to grouping theory uses math to determine how to organize individuals to maximize learning.

To learn more, click [here](#).



Create Groups

Collaborative learning offers many benefits over traditional instruction. Studies show that when students work as a team, they develop positive attitudes, solve problems more effectively, and experience a greater sense of accomplishment. Use Blackboard to organize student groups. To learn how, click [here](#).

Perusall is an annotation tool for textbooks to create engaging interactions and community within the text itself. Perusall is free, and it can be integrated into Blackboard courses. To learn how click [here](#).



From a student's perspective, "My professor utilized it in place of taking notes. It was a fun way to do the reading while simultaneously seeing my classmates' reflections on the text. It was an enjoyable and easy-to-use tool that kept me engaged in the course."



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