VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN TEACHING, ASSESSMENT, AND LEARNING

TEACHING TIPS TUESDAY
COLLABORATIVE SPACES

Dear Colleagues:

In this issue of our newsletter, we turn our attention to a common topic, collaboration. What does it look like inside and outside of the classroom, in-person, and online? Are there ways we can effectively engage others in group activities or provide spaces to enhance these experiences further? Below, we will talk about some areas on campus that have intentionally been redesigned or enhanced to foster collaboration. Then, Gina will provide resources on how tools can be used in Zoom (breakout rooms) and Blackboard (groups) to foster online engagement. Finally, on the group front, we will end with an invitation to sign up for our ongoing LMS Sandboxes. This is an important opportunity to provide your insights as we explore our options regarding an integral part of campus technology. We will end with helpful tip for a commonly asked question on Simple Syllabus. Although not group related, has been asked by multiple faculty members. As always, thank you for your continued engagement.

Sincerely,

The CITAL Team (Ed, Gina, and Cindy)

Collaborative Spaces: One Size Does Not Fit All

Collaboration can happen almost anywhere; we see it all the time. Whether it is students sitting underneath a tree on a fall afternoon, or faculty members engaged in discussion at Grinders, the need to congregate and discuss big ideas is ever-

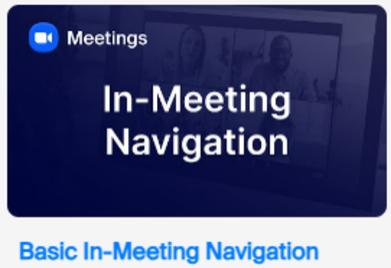
present on a college campus. In this short article, we will talk about some spaces on campus that have been intentionally designed to serve the collaborative needs of students and faculty, as well as perhaps daydreaming on what else may be possible. Read More Here

Ed Finn, Executive Director, CITAL

Do you know about Breakout Rooms?

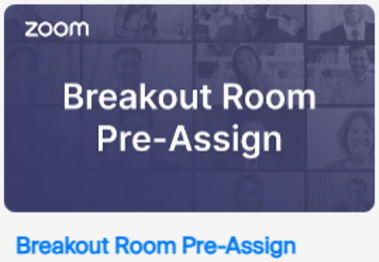
Every faculty member gets a VALPO Zoom account and each Blackboard has a Zoom meeting space for collaborating outside of the classroom. Meetings can be divided into groups called Breakout Rooms. You can use these room for small groups for discussion. You can also pre-assign specific tasks for each group to perform.**To learn more, click on the Zoom Meeting Buttons below.**

For Zoom related inquiries please email zoom@valpo.edu for assistance.



Basic In-Meeting Navigation

Using Breakout Rooms During a Meeting



Breakout Room Pre-Assign

Group work, so what's the big deal?

Group work is best for learners when it is based on real-life teamwork situations. Collaborative learning offers many benefits. Studies show that when students work as a team, they:

- Develop positive attitudes
- Solve problems more effectively
- Experience a greater sense of accomplishment

To learn how to use Blackboard's group tools, how to create groups, create group assignments, and manage groups, **click on the Group Buttons below.**

Create Groups | Create Group Assignments | Manage Groups

Don't Stand on the Sidelines

We need your feedback!

We are actively recruiting faculty to join us in an evaluation of various LMS platforms (including Blackboard Ultra, Brightspace, and Canvas). Don't let your questions, concerns, and feedback go unheard. You can request an account through the CITAL Helpdesk and will be asked to test various aspects of each system and complete a survey at the end of the process. Get involved today by requesting a sandbox (or two or three) below.

D2L Brightspace | Blackboard Learn Ultra | canvas

Q&A: Can I make changes to my syllabus?

Yes, you can update your syllabus anytime during the current term. For example, if you need to add a reading or change a due date that is easy to do. However, if you are editing your syllabi after it's been published, **be sure to always click the *Submit Button* at the bottom of the page to *save any changes*.**

Note: Syllabi can no longer be edited once a semester ends.

Have questions or need support? Please contact the CITAL Help Desk.

Visit the CITAL Website, Your One-Stop-Shop for Faculty Resources

Submit a CITAL Helpdesk Ticket

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