

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING GROUPS

Traditional vs. Collaborative

The table below illustrates the difference between traditional and collaborative learning groups. Creating successful collaborative learning groups can assist students in achieving in rigorous academic classes.

Traditional Groups	Collaborative Learning Groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No interdependence • No individual accountability • Homogenous • One appointed leader • Responsibility only for self • Social skills ignored • Teacher/tutor ignores group functioning • No group processing required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive interdependence • Individual accountability • Heterogeneous • Shared leadership • Shared responsibility for one another • Appropriate social skills are modeled by the tutor • Groups process their effectiveness through reflection.

Describe a time when you had a successful collaborative experience in school. What did it look like, feel like and sound like?

<p>What did it look like?</p>	<p>What did it sound like?</p>
<p>What did it feel like?</p>	<p>What did you think? Describe your best memory?</p>

FLYING SOLO OR IN A GROUP?

Record your thoughts about working in a group and working alone by completing these sentences. Share your thoughts with a partner.

I prefer to work in a group when...	I prefer to work alone when...
What I find difficult about working in a group is...	What I find difficult about working along is...

Your preference (working in a group or working alone) is indicative of your learning style. It is important to identify your learning style so you can work collaboratively with others. You will also need to develop sensitivity and awareness to the way others learn best, especially when their styles are different than yours.