



COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND GETTING STARTED

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COLLABORATIVE GROUPS

- A variety of structured techniques developed and studied by Aronson, Johnson & Johnson, Kagan, Slavin, and others since the early 1970s.
- These terms usually do not refer to loosely structured group work in which students are told simply to "work together" on a problem or assignment.
- To emphasize the difference between unstructured group work and collaborative group work, groups are usually referred to as teams.
- Collaborative structures are content-free, and thus can be used in a variety of contexts.



STUDIES AND RESEARCH RESULTS

- Studies have shown that in well-structured cooperative groups, researchers consistently learn many different subjects better than students in traditionally structured environments.
- Cooperative learning also has a number of psychological and social benefits, such as being exposed to other points-of-view, learning how to cooperate, having more positive feelings about the work, having more positive feelings about themselves and others, and wanting their classmates to do well.



COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Studies have shown also that all students benefit academically from cooperative learning.
- Successful students show modest gains in performance and achievement, while historically unsuccessful students usually show tremendous gains when taught using cooperation as the primary motivator.
- Cooperative grouping lets students organize their thoughts in a less threatening context than whole-class discussions and prepares students for sharing their thoughts with the class.





GETTING STARTED

- Because researchers often lack collaborative group skills, it is essential to target interaction skills and team building within the research group.
- Researchers need to learn how to listen to others, and to analyze and interpret what they are saying.
- Researchers must learn, for example, how to encourage others in their group to participate, how to ask questions, how to manage dominant personalities, how to monitor and modify the group dynamic, and how to communicate effectively.



ACTION RESEARCH

- The focus of action research should be on developing group skills.
- Another effective structure is to have a team of three or four researchers work on a problem together -- a problem developed in your research question.
- Afterwards, having the research team discuss what happened, and what didn't happen is huge.



THANK YOU! QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

