

OVERVIEW OF COOPERATIVE LEARNING (CL)

BASIC ELEMENTS OF COOPERATIVE LEARNING

1. Positive interdependence
2. Face-to-face interaction
3. Individual accountability
4. Social skills
5. Group processing

LEARNING OUTCOMES PROMOTED BY COOPERATIVE LEARNING

1. Higher achievement and increased retention
2. More frequent higher-level reasoning, deeper level of understanding, and critical thinking
3. Greater achievement motivation and intrinsic motivation to learn
4. Greater ability to view situations from others' perspectives
5. More positive, accepting, and supportive relationships with peers regardless of ethnic, gender, ability, social class, or other differences
6. Greater social support
7. Greater psychological health, adjustment, and well-being
8. More positive self-esteem based on basic self-acceptance
9. Great social competencies

TYPES OF COOPERATIVE LEARNING GROUPS

<u>Formal</u>	<u>Duration:</u> <i>1 class period to several weeks</i> <u>Purpose:</u> <i>To ensure that students are actively involved in the intellectual work of: organizing material, explaining it, summarizing it, and integrating it into existing conceptual structures</i>
<u>Informal</u>	<u>Duration:</u> <i>Few minutes to one class period</i> <u>Purpose:</u> <i>Used to direct teaching to focus attention, set a mood conducive to learning, set expectations for lesson, insure that students cognitively process material, and provide closure to an instructional session</i>
<u>Base</u>	<u>Duration:</u> <i>Long-term, quarter or semester long</i> <u>Purpose:</u> <i>Heterogeneous groups with stable membership so that members may give each other support, help, encouragement, assistance to progress academically</i>

Excerpted from *Active Learning: Cooperation in the College Classroom*, Johnson, Johnson & Smith (2006)

CL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibilities
Recorder/Reporter	Takes notes Keeps records Reports to large group
Helper	Gets supplies/materials Distributes supplies/materials Returns supplies/materials
Sheriff	Keeps group on task Watches the time Keeps things "cool" & helps group interact
Checker/Encourager	Checks to make sure everyone understands Checks to make sure everyone participates Seeks instructor's assistance if needed
Organizer/Elaborator	Gets the group started Builds consensus Summarizes Relates information to prior class learning

5 BASIC ELEMENTS DEFINED

1. Positive Interdependence

- Each person must demonstrate successful learning. The group will succeed or fail together. "We sink or swim together."
- Materials and assessments are intentionally administered.

2. Face-to-face interaction

- "Knee to knee & eye to eye"

3. Individual accountability

- Each member must be able to explain or demonstrate that he or she has learned the concept, information, or technique.
- Each person must be actively engaged.

4. Interpersonal skills

- Active participation by all members
- Checking for understanding
- Encouragement/support
- Clarification, elaboration by all members

5. Group processing

- Each group should list three things they did well together and one thing they would do better next time.