

INNOVATIVE TEACING STRATEGY

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

In the year 2019 collaborative learning was introduced in Lakshya Universal Academy. The teachers were oriented on the collaborative learning strategy and its importance and benefits. The teachers found the strategy very effective and the students enjoyed the learning process. It gave them a chance to interact communicate and discuss the activities and concepts with each other.

What Is Collaborative Learning?

When a group of two or more students work together to complete an activity, discuss a question, or collaborate on a task, we call it collaborative learning. The intended consequence of accomplishing tasks together is to help students learn the complexities of solving a problem and promote deeper learning through doing.

Group work not only helps students learn the course material better; it also provides opportunities to develop additional skills. While working in groups, students need to harness group members' strengths, address group learning needs, manage time, divide a large project into small tasks, cooperate, negotiate, resolve conflicts, and reach consensus. These are useful skills in collaborative workspaces and future careers.

What group work doesn't do is save time for the instructor. *Effective* group work is carefully structured to achieve specific learning outcomes: learning outcomes and student expectations must be clearly formulated, directions must be well written, and instructor support must be available throughout the task. Subsequently, it may take more planning time to effectively design a group work task than it does to lecture. In other words, it's counter-productive to assign group work just because it's easier to do that than give a lecture, or because you won't have to grade as much. Group work shouldn't be a shortcut for instructors. Keep in mind that the effort is worthwhile!

Class Set-Up

The layout of your classroom space can affect group work. If you're in a room with tables or desks that are easy to move, it's easier to create groups that work together for a sustained duration of time. Rooms with set seating, like an auditorium, make it more difficult, but you don't need to eschew group work because of classroom limitations. There are ways for groups to work together in rigid setups: small groups of three or four can sit together in a row; larger groups (6–8) can split in two, with half of the group sitting in the front row and turning around to face the others in the second row.

