

SESSION 3.2: GUIDE: Citizens Collaborate

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What does it mean to be a member of a collaborative group? What makes a collaboration work? The guidelines will help each person be successful when working with others to solve real world questions, tasks, and problems. The Virtual Tour is packed with inspiring resources of dedicated individuals who focus on the honor of the group. Which guidelines are the most important for individuals to follow to achieve successful team outcomes?

As a class or in smaller assigned groups, create guidelines for a collaborative group. Remember to refer to the guidelines. Then, get ready to form a group to take on a challenge for your classroom, community, school, state, or choice of topic.

Guidelines

What collaborative skills, abilities, and behaviors are needed to attain the best results?

- Listen, respond, question
- Negotiate, build consensus
- Lead, follow, exchange roles
- Record individual and group processes
- Focus on task until complete, follow the conversation, process it, summarize it, and take creative leaps based on it. (Synthesis to create, innovate)
- What are other characteristics that should be added to this list?

What is Collaborative Learning?

- To co-labor with one another to compose a jointly accredited work.
- To join in a rigorous and willful desire to co-labor in the field of knowledge together. (Dominguez, Carlos, Cisco, 2011)

What is the ideal image of a collaborative classroom? “Several children gathered at a table engaged in an authentic high-level task, discussion, possibly debating an issue, making shared decisions, and designing a product that demonstrates deeper learning and/or innovation.” (Edutopia, Rebecca Alber, 2012)

Remember that deep learning, problem solving/creativity/innovation are not linear processes and take time. The ideas/task lead us from abstract to concrete thinking and back again. This process occurs often. Ideas/tasks evolve. Excitement takes over as the collaborative work has life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you believe the Capitol model could have worked with the guidelines that you created?
2. What else have you learned about from the Virtual Tour?
3. What will your Collaborative Group’s challenge be?
4. What individual skills will each of you need as you work in your collaborative group?
5. Will you need to look to parents, teachers, or community members for help?
6. Will you want to include others?