Using the Taxonomy of Collaborative E-Learning to Design Assignments
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All team assignments involve interdependencies among members that require learners to collaborate at some level. However, Parallel and Sequential teams need to negotiate on more logistical bases, whereas Synergistic Teams must negotiate and collaborate on a more conceptual level. Time, learning objectives of the class or session, availability of groupware or other tools, degree of trust and characteristics of the learners are some factors to be considered.

EXAMPLE: *Here is the same basic assignment, articulated as a Parallel, Sequential or Synergistic Assignment.*

The United Nations has released *The 2007 Report: The Least Developed Countries, Knowledge, technological learning and innovation for developments.* Your team needs to present an analysis of key points relevant to adoption of e-learning as a part of knowledge aid to the least developed countries.

The *Report* is available for free download from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=8674&intItemID=4314&lang=1&mode=toc

- **Parallel Team Assignment:** Each team member selects one chapter of the report to review. Each summarizes the findings, trends and key issues of the chapter and posts in the online classroom. After reviewing each others' work, they compile the reviews into one document and submit.

- **Sequential Team Assignment:**
  Learner 1: Based on Chapter 1 of the report, the learner explains trends in international markets and technological development, as well as key educational challenges for each country selected and locates websites for educational institutions in each country.

  Learner 2: Learner 1 has identified trends national policies for different countries and located instution's websites. Learner 2 reviews the websites selected to compare and contrast the information presented with the information provided in the report. Learner 2 identifies the most promising technology and learning development strategy for each country.

  Learner 3: Learner 2 has identified one technology and learning development strategy. Learner 3 conducts a SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat) analysis the proposed strategy and summarizes the analyses.

  Conclusion of assignment: The team compiles and analysis and makes a presentation to entire class.

- **Synergistic Team Assignment:**
  After reviewing the report individually, the team brainstorms possible strategies and discussed pros and cons of each, then makes a decision about which to recommend.