

Week 4 – Sample Activity Instructions & Schedule

(from previous FLO workshop)

Activity Instructions and Schedule

Week 4 – Collaboration

Overview

This week, we will be facilitating our collaborative group work looking at team dynamics and issues that can arise during collaborative online work. FLO has provided us with a ready-made case study that we'll use as a springboard for our discussion. We'll use this case study to think about and share ideas from two perspectives:

- **Putting out fires:** We'll talk about a "first steps" perspective, discussing ways to resolve the immediate problem in the case study.
- **Preventing conflagration:** Next, we'll look at ways to prevent these kinds of problems from happening in the first place, or at least to prevent small problems from becoming big problems. This will be the "In the Future" perspective

At the end of this week, we hope that we will all be able to:

- recognize team dynamics that affect collaborative learning groups, and
- propose different strategies to support collaborative teams.

Readings and Resources

Please start by reading the case study, [Team in Trouble](#). You can find the case study in Week 4. As you are reading, think about these questions:

- Why did this conflict occur?
- How could the facilitator respond to Sam? To Pat?
- What should the next step be?
- Who is responsible for solving this problem?
- How might this conflict impact the group dynamics?

Recommended Readings

- Dool, R. (2007, February). Best practices: [Mitigating Conflict in Online Student Teams](#). eLearn Magazine, 2007(2), 2. Note: This article directly addresses the issue of conflict in teams. It gives effective, solid strategies based on experience.
- Brindley, J. E., Walti, C., & Blaschke, L. M. (2009, June). Creating Effective Collaborative Learning Groups in an Online Environment. The International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning, 10(3). Retrieved October 8, 2016, from <http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/view/675/1271>

Optional readings for now or later (for those of you who like a good reference list)

- Collaborative Online Research and Learning, "Tuckman Stages of Group Development", retrieved from <http://coral.wcupa.edu/tuckmanstages.htm>

- Ed Tech Review (2014, September 19). What Does Collaboration in Education Really Mean? Retrieved October 08, 2016, from <http://edtechreview.in/trends-insights/insights/1527-what-does-collaboration-in-education-really-mean>
- Kratz, H. (2011, November 09). The importance of collaboration in higher education. Retrieved October 08, 2016, from <https://opensource.com/education/11/11/importance-collaboration-higher-education>
- Lynch, M. (2016, September 28). A little bit more conversation: The limits of online education - The Tech Advocate. Retrieved October 09, 2016, from <http://www.thetechadvocate.org/little-bit-conversation-limits-online-education/>

Instructions and Schedule

Part 1: by Tuesday, October 18

To start, please think about the three questions below and post your reflections in the forum.

Use your own ideas and experience or refer to the optional readings provided.

1. What is collaboration?
2. Why is collaboration important?
3. When learners are asked to collaborate, what potential conflicts should a facilitator/instructor be alert to?

Part 2 by Wednesday, October 19

Please read and reflect on the case study (in the Week 4 page) to learn what problems the student team has reported.

Next, from the perspective of instructors you will collaborate on teams who have been asked by the Dean to provide recommendations to address the case study situation. For this you will work on a small team. The focus for each team is to gather suggestions of strategies to use now and in the future:

- **Firefighters' team:** Denise (Note: 1 of the FLO Facilitators may join if desired due to small numbers)
- **Fire Prevention Team:** Claire & Judith

Post your suggestions or strategies to separate topic threads in the [Collaboration Forum \(Team\)](#)

Part 3 by Thursday, October 20

Identify your team's "Top 5" recommendations to share with the Dean. For this activity, we are going to try a fun tool that Cheri has used, [Tricider](#). It's very easy to use; there's a 90-second video on the site's home page to get you started.

Have a look at [Tricider](#) and then add your team's 5 top recommendations for the Dean to the 'Tricider' page that we've set up here: <http://bit.ly/2dWYsC8>

For each of your recommendations add a brief 'argument' that supports your idea.

If your idea is already there just vote for it and push it up in the rankings!

Vote for all the ideas on the list you think are good to help identify the highest rated ideas among all the suggestions.

Part 4 by Friday, October 21

Lastly, please add any comments regarding the role of conflict in teamwork to the [Collaboration Forum \(Class\)](#).

Describe your experiences on collaborative teams in online courses...feel free to comment on the good, the bad or the ugly.

Part 5 by Friday evening, October 21

Please provide your feedback to the Yellow Team - in the topic thread for Week 4 in the Feedback forum in the Hub.