

Cooperative Learning Teacher Reflection

The following questions help teachers reflect on the use of cooperative learning.

Positive Interdependence

- How well did the groups meet the learning goals?
 - Were the rewards (for individuals or groups) fair? Did they encourage students to work as a team and commit to their learning both as an individual and as a team?
 - How did the role assignment of the team members work?
 - Did I distribute the resources in such a way that students had to share resources with the group as a whole in order to succeed?
 - Were the learning tasks designed in a way optimal for student cooperation? Did the product require contributions from each member?
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Individual and Group Accountability

- Was each student individually held accountable for knowing the information and doing his or her share of the work?
 - Did I check for individual accountability, such as by posing a question or a problem and randomly calling on specific individuals to give an explanation after talking about the question or problem in a group?
 - What opportunities did I put in place for individual team members to demonstrate the knowledge and skills that the team was assigned to learn?
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Promotive Interaction

- What was the quality of ongoing interactions among the students?
 - Did the students engage in ongoing conversation, exchange, and support throughout the learning activity?
 - Did I explain the interaction behaviors I expect to observe during the lesson?
 - What feedback did I provide when students demonstrated undesired behaviors?
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Interpersonal and Small-Group Skills

- Did students learn specific social skills because of this cooperative learning experience?
- How did the students do in terms of expressing their ideas, appreciating different perspectives, group decision making, group problem solving, and conflict resolution?

Group Processing

- Did I provide the students with opportunities to evaluate and discuss the effectiveness of their learning experience?
- Did I provide the students opportunities to generate ideas or suggestions for future improvement?
- Did I have students celebrate the success of work done as a team?

Sources: Adapted from Johnson, D. W., & Johnson, R. T. (1999a). Learning together and alone: Cooperative, competitive, and individualistic learning (5th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon; Johnson, D. W., & Johnson, R. T. (1999b). Making cooperative learning work. Theory Into Practice, 38(2), 67–73.