1. **What is cooperative learning?** Cooperative learning is a learning and teaching method where students work in heterogeneous groups to achieve a common academic goal.

2. **Why should I use cooperative learning?** Cooperative learning has been proven by numerous educational studies to provide an effective learning environment for all students. Regardless of a students’ race, ethnicity, language efficiency, or achievement level, cooperative learning promotes academic and social success.

3. **Does cooperative learning work for all subject matter?** Yes, cooperative learning has been proven to produce higher achievement scores, higher academic test scores, and greater comprehension of all subject matter.

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**References**


**Before The Assignment**

**Teacher Role:**

- Find a lesson that facilitates group work.
- Structure the task to promote interdependence among students.
- Create a clear outcome of objectives as to what the groups and individual students must accomplish upon completing the assignment.
- Divide the class into heterogeneous groups containing students who are likely to work effectively with one another.
- Delegate which students will fulfill a particular role (recorder, supplyperson, timer, and leader) and when the students should switch roles.
- Create an individual accountability component to the lesson. This is a key factor. Ways to assess individual: individual tests, random selection of a group member to explain the final product; have each student explain verbally and/or in writing what they learned.
- Design an evaluation plan that allows each student to evaluate his or herself and all other members. Areas of evaluation should cover participation, academic, and social success of all members.

**During The Assignment**

**Teacher Role:**

- Serve as a resource and as a monitor.
- Provide guidance to the groups about appropriate behavior.
- Do not overpower the group.
- Further the groups process by asking guiding, open-ended questions.
- Provide rewards for group success.

**Student Role:**

- Work collaboratively and encourage other group members.
- Perform in a manner that facilitates the success of all group members.
- Display the following social skills: leadership, decision-making, trust building, communication, and conflict management.

**After The Assignment**

**Teacher Role:**

- Review the students’ evaluations and individual accountability results.
- Assess individual, group evaluation, and final product.
- Create a file for each student’s individual accountability results and group evaluations in order to improve future lessons to fully encompass cooperative learning.
- Consider regrouping individuals for future cooperative learning lessons by students’ gender, race, ethnic background, academic and social achievement, personality type, and learning style.

**Student Role:**

- Assess learning on an individual level as well as have group accountability evaluation.