

Johnson Center Zoom Table

Collaborative Work

Benefits of Remote Collaborative Work

- Working from home may become more common
 - Applicable skill
- Challenges students to learn new technology
- Provides social interactions with peers
- Still has many of the benefits we would usually expect
 - Interpersonal skill building
 - Setting and hitting goals
 - Alternative approach to learning material
 - Etc.

Challenges of Remote Collaborative Work

- Access to resources
- No true face-to-face work
- Disengagement by some students
- Challenges with presenting work as a group

Some Best Practices

1. Make sure projects are complex enough to warrant collaboration.
2. Be clear about purpose of the collaborative work.
3. Encourage clear roles and responsibilities.
4. Help students set norms of communications and technology.
5. Encourage students to set internal goals for completion and quality.

Successes

- What projects worked?

- What online tools were useful?

Not Success

- What was the root cause?
 - Technology
 - Project
 - Student engagement
 - Other?
- Did you cancel a group project?
 - Why?
 - Would you cancel it again?

Takeaways and More Resources

- Complex group projects are possible.
 - Challenges are many, but helping students set norms, goals, and roles within their groups at the start can help
- Creating more check-ins with groups may be key
 - i.e. required check-ins with whole group on Zoom a few times during the project
- Including reflection component at the end
- Discussed challenges with Zoom breakout sessions
 - Will discuss with IT how to best setup preassigned groups for classes
- More resources for best practices can be found here:
<https://www.gened.umd.edu/documents/GroupWork.pdf>
http://crlt.umich.edu/publinks/clgt_bestpractices#concepts