

# Collaborative learning versus Cooperative learning

The terms collaborative learning and cooperative learning, which describe students working together oftentimes are used interchangeably. However, accordingly there are key differences; with collaborative learning, students make individual progress in tandem with others. Co-operative learning involves more inherent interdependence, promoting greater individual accountability. (<https://resourced.prometheanworld.com/collaborative-cooperative-learning/>)

## Collaborative learning

Students progress personally, while collectively working towards a common goal. Students are accountable to one another and, with appropriate direction, **self-manage**. Pupils learn to better understand and anticipate difference, recognize it in themselves and others, and use it to their advantage. (Google classroom –a collaborative learning environment)

A typical collaborative learning process:

- Students organize their efforts between themselves (group-structured)
- Students source material to help them complete the activity
- The activity is not monitored by the teacher (although they can help when assistance is requested by the group)
- Students assess their own individual and group performance
- Success depends on individual strengths

## Similarities

- Rely on active student participation rather than passive, lecture-based teaching
- Students assume a degree of responsibility for their own learning
- Teachers act as facilitators to learning
- Require pupils to complete a task/project
- Instill team building skills and encourage social interaction
- Help to prepare students for the world of work
- Enhance deeper cognitive skills
- Create shared learning experiences
- Increase levels of information retention
- Embrace student diversity

## Cooperative learning

Like the cast and crew of a theatre production, co-operation involves interdependence. **Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined but are open for negotiation**. This method of collaboration brings with it a strong sense of **accountability**. In contrast to collaborative learning, a cooperative learning structure takes the following form:

- Activities are **structured** with each student assigned a specific role (**teacher-structured**)
- Teachers supply information for students to read and analyze (or let pupils know where this info can be found)
- Teachers observe, listen and intervene where necessary
- Students submit work at the end of lesson for evaluation/assessment
- The success of the group depends upon the efforts of everyone involved