

Classroom Collaboration

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- How much collaboration do you feel is needed for students in a classroom in order for them to fully grasp a subject?

Audio recording started: 12:51 PM Tuesday, March 07, 2006

UID - difference between success and failure & quality
helps all of these if students can collaborate, more time on project than just course topics.
Communication was key. without can yeild a hero situation where one or two people take over.

- If you feel collaboration is necessary do you know of or use any tools that facilitate this?

Research - Plone - python based content management system to share artifacts. A place where people can get a sense for what is happening.

UID - moodle - course management, not necessary collaboration, lack of time to understand the system.

Plone - works nicely, more structure, harder to use, allows for internal communication and allows for a nice website to be created

Swiki - problem content looks disorganized, grows organically

Moodle - used the mailing list feature, permanent record of conversations,
Should have allowed students to mail. Received no replies through the system, only direct email.

did not promote this feature, permissions issues
ran out of time to set up group forums

- What aspects of your lectures would you like to enhance?

Materials needed to be enhanced. The delivery was ok.
Answered to many questions, lectured too much, not enough discussion with students
CATE remote system set up for lectures, not discussion, for remote students.
Needed more discussion

- What are some positive aspects and negative aspects of your lectures, in your opinion?

Material is very well structured.

Present technique, do example, do it in groups, then do HW and then discussion.

More time for reflection.

Would like to have collaborative critique about others projects.

- How do you feel about students openly expressing ideas during class, although it may hinder the speed of your lecture?

Very Appropriate but because the class is videotaped it must proceed

Audio recording started: 1:05 PM Tuesday, March 07, 2006

Everything is very timed. and must follow timeline.

Group Critique losses time but wishes there was more time allowed for this.

- Would you use a technologies device (such as a laptop, a clicker) in your classroom?

Yes provided they add value.
Unsure about the use of clickers.

- What do you feel are the ups and downs of Student Response Systems (clickers)?

Applicable to large groups, where students are unlikely to communicate.
Gets status of a group.
Smaller classes this might not help.
Not discussion.

- If you were to teach a large lecture hall (250+ students) would you want to allow your students to openly ask questions and express ideas?

Would want it but it would have to be curved. Take offline.
Not necessarily a bad thing.
Not all conversations are relevant for that lecture.
Have to temper conversations with material that needs to be covered. IE Physics 1
UID is a little different, have built in need for dialog, qualitative.

- How do you feel about the use of the Moodle and Wikis? Positives, Negatives? What would you improve?

Tendency not to contribute. Needs to be forced.
Start up dialogs, but they die out.
Most people rather watch .
observers instead of engaging online.

- If you have ever used WebCT system, what did you like and dislike?

No, Evaluated it as technologie
To Structured
Imposes to much of model versus moodle which is very customizable.

- How do you feel about students collaborating with each other during a course?

- Do you have any ideas to better facilitate collaboration among students in large lecture halls?

Social networking, Facebook, students engage.
What about these forums that make people engaged with each other.
We will build it they will come, backwards.
People are already communicating in these places. Maybe schoolwork
What makes these work?
Collaboration among these prebuilt communities.

- Any other comments...

To maintain leadership you must teach them to collaborate and collaborate beyond boundaries.
To be competitive as a country and individual you need collaboration, not cooperation.

Summary

To be competitive in this world it is now necessary that students be taught not how to cooperate but how to collaborate.

WebCT - Too Structured, does not allow for customizability

Wikis - Great but end up to unstructured and messy

Moodle - great but unable to learn all features before class began

Forums & Wikis usually have to be forced onto students to use otherwise they do not participate

Look a communities that already exist such as MySpace and Facebook.com and maybe incorporate education in these already functioning communities.

Although students speaking up is a great form of learning, it often has to be curved in order to continue with the material.

Allowing students to evaluate each others work in real time would be a great enhancement

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