Benefits of collaborative work and improving teamwork of students

Bahoroy Yolliyeva

Faculty of English philology

yolliyevabahoroy@gmail.com

Abstract: This article analyses the benefits of students` teamwork in class. It thoroughly discusses how organizing collaborative work among students can improve their learning process. New ways and methods to accelerate teamwork were tried, and we compare students' previous and after results through this article.

Keywords: teamwork, team leader, team spokesperson, quality assurance, BTOS

A group of students working together to carry out a task is known as teamwork. Mostly, they try to achieve the same goal together with their group mates. Every team has its dynamic and we may get many examples from sports. For example, in football, all eleven players try to win their opponents by scoring more goals. Each player, however, has their functions. Like that, student collaborative projects have numerous advantages over common classroom-based instruction for improved student learning. Students working together to achieve the same goal produce higher achievement and exhibit. In addition, collaborative results are over individual results. Although it is a fact that teamwork has tons of benefits, sometimes we can`t get the results as much as we wanted since the teamwork wasn`t carried out according to direct criteria.

To improve teamwork of students there are a few ways to build teamwork directly. As a starting point, calling them a team instead of a group is much more efficient. The reason is a group includes people who coordinate their efforts. A team, however, has a common purpose and a shared responsibility for success. In addition, having a team name is an early step to thinking as a team. When they form a team and its name, suggest they define the following roles:

- Team leader (to coordinate the team and assign activities based on the skills required for the task)

- Team spokesperson (to schedule team meetings, create an agenda for each session and keep minutes of agreements to the team and ensure further effective communication)

- Quality assurance (to be responsible for reviewing project/task requirements, making them known to the team, and ensuring they are met)

Furthermore, they should identify students` natural abilities or roles within teams, such as "coordinator", "shaper" and "resource investigator". Students need to recognize that we are all different and have unique skills, which is why collaborative work can be so valuable and enriching. It is also crucial to guide the teams in maximizing the skills of each of its members so that each person's strengths can be used to achieve shared goals. By the end of a project, students should at the very least be able to recognize their strengths and how to maximize them in a team. Each team should have members with different skills. Almost immediately after forming the teams, it is a good idea to have them carry out an activity to help members get to know each other and thus strengthen team integration. One known thing that works well is asking students to create a portfolio that indicates their characteristics, traits, abilities, significant accomplishments, and extracurricular activities. The students should define rules to conduct their team and all of them should agree upon it. They need to evaluate each other and give feedback on teammates` work, too. They could use Teammates in which students can answer quantitative and qualitative questions about the work carried out by their group`s members.

Successful teams vary in their dynamics but often exhibit many core traits. Team members typically must have a clear understanding of their role on the team and the role of each team member's responsibilities. Team members must also maintain attitudes, knowledge, and skills to perform their roles well and optimize team performance.

In addition, to have a clear awareness of the team dynamics and responsibilities, successful team members often display the following traits:

- **Clear communication**: If team members communicate their thoughts, ideas, and important updates, other team members can make adjustments to help the team succeed.

- **Honesty and transparency**: Team members who are honest with their teams about any concerns and difficulties often build more significant levels of trust and collaboration within the team.

- **Active listening:** Team members need to trust and understand one another to work cohesively toward their goals. Openly listening and considering team members' thoughts and opinions can help the team function effectively.

- **Responsibility and time management**: Team members must trust one another to adequately prepare for completing their roles. This involves knowing your limits, setting reasonable expectations, and communicating any changes to the original plan.

- **Flexibility:** Many teams change dynamics and individual responsibilities as they progress toward their goal. Successful team members do this in a way that encourages each member's strength and the team's collective goal.

Besides, there should be respect among team members, respecting team members involves how you speak to them, treat each member`s contributions, and allow members to have autonomy over their work. Team members who feel respected are more loyal to their group and become more productive. Creating a positive atmosphere is key to increasing collaboration and opening channels of trust and transparency. Encouragement and celebrating small wins can also help to motivate team members.

We tried a new survey called BTOS (Better Teamwork of Students). We chose a group of 16 students at university and made the 8 of them work in a group to make a presentation and let the other 8 do it individually. We informed the group about the instructions in this article and they immediately found a name for themselves. We gave them 2 days to prepare the presentation. Surprisingly, when

we compared their work to individuals, the difference was so noticeable. The presentation was creative and they also presented it so well one by one with perfect speeches. Furthermore, they also prepared some games and tasks for the other 8 students except for the presentation. That was much more than we expected.

In conclusion, better teamwork can bring better outcomes. Introverted students may have better characteristics by joining a positive team or some may find that real friends by giving up the virtual world. Most importantly, when students are given punctuality and responsibility they feel better about the team. Once a student is put into teamwork, he can achieve his goals and gain confidence. That means teamwork doesn`t only help with your studies but you could learn much about practical skills you may need in your life too.

Reference:

1.   "Teamwork that works", Carol Marchetti, April 16, 2018

2.   Ingrid Benavides, Monterrey Institute of Technology, 9 June 2022

3.   2009, Heldref Publications

Websites:

•   https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/six-tips-helping-your-students-improve-their-teamwork-skills

•   https://www.coursera.org/enterprise/articles/improve-teamwork?utm_source=mobile&utm_medium=page_share&utm_content=article&utm_campaign=sharing_cta