

Table 1

Collaboration (Cooperative Learning) Approach

Advantages

- Promotes positive interpersonal relationships.
- Develops group skills.
- Prompts learning from each other.
- Furnishes multiple perspectives for problem solving and solution development.
- Provides opportunities to better understand each other, develop and improve friendships, and learn more about each other.
- Allows for both leadership and followership experience.
- Causes appreciation for the value of dependency upon others to solve problems and form solutions.
- Offers practice at verbally exploring and justifying reasoning to one another.
- Allows for learning how to teach one another and help each other develop ideas.
- Demonstrates the importance of teamwork.

Disadvantages

- Introverts may be less likely to meaningfully participate.
- Lower achievers may be overwhelmed and feel insecure by the knowledge and skills demonstrated by higher achievers.
- May minimize thinking and working independently and relying on self-initiative to complete work.
- May result in conflict if compromise is not accepted by members and negatively impacts creating a high-quality solution to the problem.
- Higher achievers may spend considerable time working and developing lower achievers' knowledge and skills at the expense of advancing their learning.
- May result in unequal distribution of the workload in accomplishing the group's solution.
- Since students learn at different rates, some may be slowed down while others constantly struggle to keep up with the activities needed to develop an effective solution.
- Members may intentionally not put forth maximum effort because they perceive others will do the work for them.