Using Norms to Help Make Collaborative Learning More Inclusive

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My Instruction & Context

Facilitate information literacy sessions
⊙ opportunities in first-year composition courses
⊙ workshops for the Academic Success Center
⊙ additional learning opportunities for undergraduate students

Challenges
⊙ Constructivist approach to learning in a “one-shot” session
⊙ Information literacy content may be introductory to some students
⊙ Getting to know students and the classroom culture
Collaborative Learning

- Peer-to-Peer Learning emphasis at Clemson
- Group projects/assignments
- Group tasks in class

How do we create a learning environment that promotes inclusion?
Norms

- “Shared agreements about how a group will work together” (Boudett & Lockwood, 2019, p. 12)
- Synonymous with expectations
Why Group Norms?

- Collaborative work may replicate power dynamics in an organization or society
- People might be hesitant to speak up
- Historically privileged voices may dominate conversations
- Students process information, learn, and communicate differently
- Cultural norms
- Modeling and practicing communication skills
Examples of Team Norms

Stick to the protocol and hear all voices.

Be here now.

Treat each other with dignity and respect.

If you commit to something do it.

Share the air.

Actively listen to teammates.

Ground statements in evidence.

Take an inquiry stance.
Implementation Best Practices

- Limit to 5-7
- Provide examples and show visuals
- Groups revise or create new
- Display to remember
- Revisit and adjust as needed
- Norms check-in
Scalability

- Helped me as a guest lecture in another instructor’s classroom to provide pathways for communication for in-class activities
- Used in meetings with students, colleagues, and peers


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Thanks!

Any questions?

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