

1. Student to Student Interaction

It is important that facilitators encourage student to student interaction during sessions. In a collaborative learning environment, students can help each other learn, as well as learn themselves. Not only do students develop their understanding of concepts through group work, but also develop social skills and critical thinking. Students who work together collaboratively achieve higher levels of thought and retain information longer than students who work alone (Johnson and Johnson 1986).

Strategies and tips for promoting student to student interaction:

- Facilitators should plan student to student interaction into their sessions.
- Student to facilitator interactions limit the number of students who benefit from interaction to only the student speaking.
- Getting students to ask each other questions or discuss topics or methods in groups encourages all members of the group to interact with one another.
- Using wait time increases the opportunity for students to interact with one another.
- Facilitators should redirect questions to other students to encourage students to answer each other's' questions.
- Students should work in small groups whenever possible.
- Facilitators should encourage students to study together outside of the sessions.
- Facilitators should pay attention to student responses and check for understanding when needed.
- Observe the pattern of interactions during your sessions. Use interaction diagrams to map these patterns.

Diagram 1

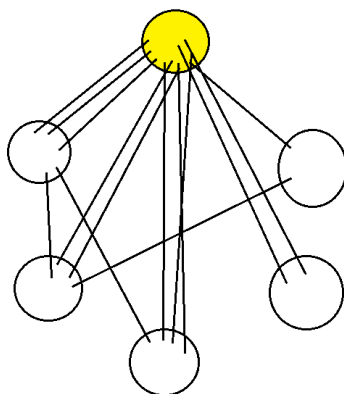


Diagram 2

