

## Elements of Cooperative Learning

### 1. Positive Interdependence (Most important element)

Students:

- **Believe** their role is required and indispensable for group success  
They sink or swim together.
- Have mutual goals and tasks
- Share materials/resources
- Recognize team accomplishments

### 2. Face-to-Face Interaction (provides academic and personal support system)

Students:

- Promote each other's success by sharing resources/materials
- Support each others efforts by encouraging and applauding each other's efforts
- Orally explain how to solve problems
- Teach one's knowledge to others
- Check for understanding
- Discuss concepts being learned
- Connect present with past learning

### 3. Individual and Group Accountability (must be structured into lessons)

Individual Accountability:

- Contribute his/her share of the work (i.e. color code individual work)
- Assess performance of each member and results are used to determine who needs more assistance, support, and encouragement in learning.
- Share or demonstrate learning (i.e. - students paraphrase, turn in own answers)
- Assign and grade segments of learning.

Group Accountability:

- Achieve goals of group
- Don't give group grades

### 4. Interpersonal and Small Group Skills

Teachers teach and demonstrate skills in:

- Leadership
- Decision-making
- Conflict resolution
- Communication
- Trust-building
- Sharing

### 5. Group Processing

Members:

- Analyze how well members are using social skills
- Make decisions about what behaviors to continue or change