



HANDOUT 1.5.1

The Need for Collaborative Classrooms

Directions:

Watch the *Journey to Excellence* video found at the following web site:

<http://www.journeytoexcellence.org.uk/videos/expertspeakers/collaborativelearningdylanwiliam.asp>

In this video, Dylan Wiliam discusses the need for collaborative classrooms. After viewing the video, record two conditions described as essential to supporting student learning in collaborative settings. Discuss these conditions with your group. Are these conditions present in your classroom?

Condition 1:

Condition 2:

Often, we make assumptions about what we would like to see in our classrooms and then we are surprised or even disappointed when our students do not behave in ways we would like and expect. Cooperative classrooms require that we teach students what collaboration looks like and how to create it. To maintain collaborative classrooms, we have to model it for students, practice it and reinforce it in the classroom.

Reflect on your own practices to support a collaborative classroom culture. What do you currently teach students to support collaboration? What might you do differently to foster positive collaboration among your students?