

Tips for Artists and Educators on Supporting Small Group Collaboration

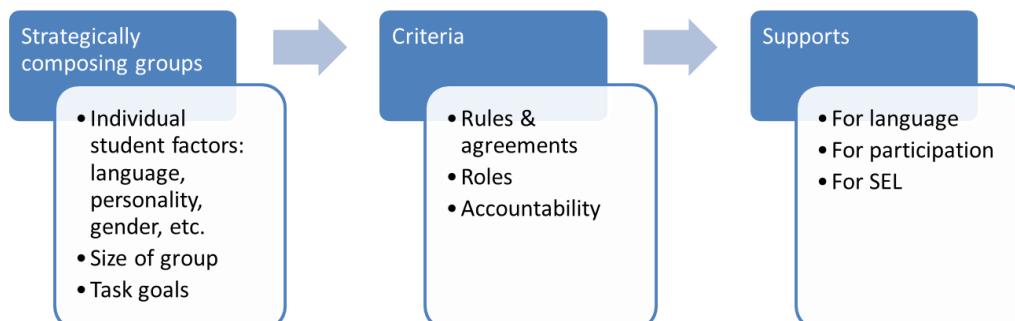


Group work and collaboration are not synonymous. Students can be grouped together focused on the same work task, yet it can be individual versus co-constructed. The benefit of collaborative work is that it is authentic and leads to outcomes that could not be accomplished individually. The key to collaborative group work is setting it up for success.

Benefits of Small Group Work

- Allows students to make artistic choices
- Effective for conceptual learning and problem solving
- Offers opportunities for language learning and practice in a natural, meaningful context
- For MLs, more confidence to take risks
- Potential for more equal distribution of talk time

Considerations for Setting Up Collaborative Small Groups



Supports for Small Group Collaboration:

- Group Agreements
- Criteria Checklists
- Prompts/sentence starters
- Self-assessments (exit slips)
- Agendas
- Ice-breaker activities
- Fish bowl modeling
- Toolbox – vocabulary & visuals
- Graphic organizers
- Storyboards
- Feedback & revision logs
- Timer
- Props

Addressing Challenges:

Challenge	Supports
Multilingual Learners’ level of language	Use a prop like a microphone to pass to the speaker
	Introduce a protocol for participation
	Model the conversation/fish bowl
	Include prompts, sentence starters or word banks
	Allow discussion in first language
	Allow multiple ways to respond
	Assign language buddies/accountability partners
	Teach how to negotiate meaning, communicative competencies
	Support trans-languaging – leveraging multilingual language assets
Reluctant students who do not want to participate	Trust Building activities
	Allow choice in group or role they select or rotate roles
	Introduce accountability measures
One student dominates group discussion	Teach social strategies for participation- turn taking, cooperation, giving feedback
	Assign roles and responsibilities
	Establish group agreements
	Introduce accountability measures