

Collaborative Learning

Working together in small groups

a teaching and learning video



This video uses drama and documentary to explore key aspects of working together in groups, of accomplishing learning tasks collaboratively.

You will meet Jessica, Tan, Helen and Dean and their tutor Diane. The students form a group to tackle an assignment on ecotourism. Each joins for different reasons and each brings different skills and knowledge to the task they face. While initially working at cross purposes, they eventually develop into an effective team.

It is fundamental to the accomplishment of learning tasks that groups understand the **process** and the **dynamics** operating as they set about reaching the group's objectives. This video and booklet provide a useful four part model for developing that understanding.

The video can be used by teachers as a discussion starter to encourage students to develop this awareness of group processes but can also be viewed by individuals or groups as part of their own development. -

from the video cover

The key issues in the video involve a recognition of the four stages of group development, the importance of class working time for the groups, tutor facilitation of the process and printed materials for use by students. Understanding and utilising each of these will lead to improved group performance and increased student satisfaction with collaborative assignments.

This video has been professionally produced under a grant from CAUT. It is part of a series that also includes *From Life to Learning* and *Critical Thinking in Context*. While each was a separate grant, there has been a conscious attempt to utilise a similar style and format. Two of the actors appear in all three videos. A *Users' Guide to the video Collaborative learning* is included in the package and provides useful information about the video and its use in teaching and learning situations.

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Return to Susan Davies
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