

Tool Box: Two

Collaborative Learning in Problem Solving

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Purpose:

I believe that “Collaborative Learning in Problem Solving” prefers students to enhance their capabilities with active participation as they can apply their critical thinking skills to solve the problem in a group. It definitely encourages students to reflect their understanding on a given question, expressing what they understood before and sharing it among their friends; then, they lead a discussion on possible alternatives.

Materials:

- Whiteboard and markers
- Stopwatch
- Paper and pens/pencils for participants

Time: Approximately 15-30 minutes, depending on the topic and the alternatives students provoke.

Logistical Requirements:

- First of all I will divide my students into six groups. And let them choose their team leader who has to share the findings of the group for each alternative.
- After projecting a problem, I prepare my students in different groups by instructing how to lead a discussion on the topic related to the context..
- Then, students eagerly participate in finding alternatives for the question as far as possible. They should be informed that only the team leader is going to share the alternatives and if s/he is in dilemma, other students in the group may assist him/her.

Procedure:

- I set time on a stopwatch and instruct my students to think individually about their response or ideas related to the topic.
- And I instruct them to share individual ideas in their respective groups and encourage them for one single alternative from each group.

- After the discussion, I make the team leader present the solution from each group that leads a larger discussion, where my students share different ideas, recommendations and any comments to solve the problem.
- Then I facilitate the discussion ensuring whether they have any opposing views on each group's idea.

Modifications:

If the finding is not clear, I will modify the problem with a few clues, then students can reach the solution.

- I will instruct students that they can get help using technology tools like online collaboration platforms or any specific site.
- As a teacher, I actively listen and take note of the ideas during the discussion to provide feedback and any improvement.

In this way, I use my teaching tool bok in my class in problem solving as I believe that such activities promote students' active participation, learning in a group, and giving a role to one specific learner and support him/her for better arguments.

Example question:

Human beings think that they can make lots of changes for their benefits. However, they are unable to change the sun rising and setting. Is there any role of the GOD for this phenomenon? Give your opinion.