

# Cooperative Learning



## Why?

- \* In cooperative learning, students work with their classmates to achieve group goals and help one another learn.
- \* Cooperative learning provides a means through which students can develop complex cognitive skills.
- \* Cooperative learning facilitates effective information processing of instructional material.
- \* In a cooperative learning environment, students provide social support for academic achievement (Slavin).
- \* Cooperative learning facilitates long-term memory and retrieval.
- \* Friendships across racial and ethnic groups are likely to form.
- \* Students demonstrate greater interest in school subject matter, participate more actively, more often encourage and support one another's learning, and are less likely to misbehave in class.

## How?

- \* Form small, heterogeneous groups.
- \* Provide clear goals toward which groups should work.
- \* Give each group member a different role or task with the group.
- \* Monitor group interaction.
- \* Provide critical information and insights when a group is unlikely or unable to provide such information and insights for itself.
- \* Make students individually accountable for their achievement.
- \* Reinforce group success.
- \* Ask students to evaluate their effectiveness in working as a group.
- \* Vary the duration of cooperative groups depending on the task to be accomplished.