Some Theories about Group Work

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"There is a difference between simply having students work in a group and structuring groups of students to work cooperatively."

- Positive Interdependence
- Face to face promotive interactions
- Individual Accountability
- Focus on interpersonal and small group skills
- Time to process the group functioning.

Figure 1. Outcomes of cooperation


Elizabeth Cohen

"There are two factors that help to account for what happens in a particular task group. These are the nature of the task, and who participates frequently at the beginning of the session."

Status: An agreed upon expectation for competence.

"Teachers may mistakenly see low status students as passive or uninvolved. In fact, the student is simply unable to get access to the materials or the attention of the group."