

# Small collaborative groups

## Feature overview

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# Our philosophy for groups

We want learners to work with one another in a way that **increases chances for interaction**, to **capture the process** and **value it as highly as the output** itself.

Learners influence each other, connecting over a **shared workspace** with **social interaction**.

The Course Team support the group's work by facilitating; **monitoring and intervening** as needed.

*Oliveira, I., Tinoca, L. and Pereira, A., 2011. Online group work patterns: How to promote a successful collaboration. Computers & Education, 57(1), pp.1348-1357.*

*Pierre Dillenbourg. What do you mean by collaborative learning?. P. Dillenbourg. Collaborative- learning: Cognitive and Computational Approaches., Oxford: Elsevier, pp.1-19, 1999.*

*Rovai, A.P., 2004. A constructivist approach to online college learning. The internet and higher Education, 7(2), pp.79-93. Vancouver*

*Stahl, G., Koschmann, T.D. and Suthers, D.D., 2006. Computer-supported collaborative learning. na. Vancouver*

*Sorenson S.M. (1981). Group-Hate: A Negative Reaction to Group Work. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Communication Association (Minneapolis, MN, May 21-25, 1981).*

# 1. Group workspace

- Group allocation (via Learning Manager)
- Tasks (with deadline)
- Learners can:
  - See other group members
  - Submit, edit and delete contributions to a shared workspace
  - Comment, like, reply, @mention in private group discussion
  - Mark as Complete
- Facilitators / Mentors can encourage and support via discussion

The screenshot displays a user interface for a group workspace. At the top left, there is a blue tab labeled '1.1'. At the top right, it says 'YOU'VE COMPLETED 1 STEP IN WEEK 1'. The main heading is 'How to be happy and healthy'. Below the heading, it states 'Submitted to showcase on 25 Jan 2019 at 12:00 (GMT)'. The text of the task reads: 'Living a healthy lifestyle is often cited as one of the best ways we can all be happy, and live longer. There are many small changes we can make individually that will have a positive impact on our lives.' Below this, it says: 'Work together to make a comprehensive set of principles which anyone can follow. You'll want to make them inclusive and adaptable by anyone, so try not to make them too specific or focused. Think big!'. Underneath the text, there is a section titled 'You're in the group Majestic Dog' with a row of user avatars. Some avatars have checkmarks, and there are purple speech bubbles with 'AM' and 'SM' next to them. A 'MENTOR' badge is visible on the right. A link 'Re-order contributions' is located to the right of the avatars. Below the avatars, there is a contribution card from 'Katie Coleman' dated '14 JAN'. The text of the contribution is: 'A healthy diet consists of fruits, vegetables, cereals, milk, potatoes, pulses, etc. It is advised to eat little or no meat and much raw food (raw fruits and vegetables). Raw food gives the body lots of vitamins and minerals that protect him from disease.' At the bottom right of the contribution card, there are 'Edit' and 'Delete' links.

## 2. Personal reflection

- After group task - next step in the sequence.
- Provides a chance for learners to reflect on the group task.
- Learner can comment on their experience of working in a group.
- Private to the individual learner.

(Future versions will support Course Team feedback)

The screenshot shows a digital interface for a personal reflection task. At the top left, there is a small box containing the number '1.2'. At the top right, it says 'YOU'VE COMPLETED 1 STEP IN WEEK 1'. The main heading is 'What did you learn?'. Below this, there is a paragraph of text: 'Think back to the task you have just completed and consider the following when writing a personal reflection:'. This is followed by a bulleted list: 'Strengths and weaknesses', 'Problems and solutions', 'Achievements and happiness', and 'Skills developed or needed'. Below the list, there is another paragraph: 'Only you will see this reflection. The aim of this task is to help you think back to the work you've completed, how you participated in the task and to improve your collaboration skills.' This is followed by a sentence: 'It will never be shared with your group or with the wider cohort.' The final section is titled 'Your reflection' and contains a text input field with the text: 'I learned that everyone needs to pull their weight in group work for it to succeed.'

## 3. Showcase

- The final step in the sequence.
- Before deadline - groups can preview how their work will be shared.
- After deadline - all groups can automatically see the output from all other groups.
- Provides a space for being open about how groups approached the task.
- Does not show the discussions from the other group workspaces.

1.3

YOU'VE COMPLETED 1 STEP IN WEEK 1

### Review other groups

Submitted on 25 Jan 2019 at 12:00 (GMT)

Each group's health and happiness principles is shared below. In the discussion share your views. Compare how the other groups approached this task and share any differences you discover when comparing to your own group's principles.

Group	Members
Majestic Dog 3 Contributions	
Awesome Badger 2 Contributions	
Epic Squirrel 4 Contributions	
Terrific Cat 4 Contributions	
Tragic Fox	

# Facilitation

Overview shows essential information & links on a per group task basis:

- Due date
- Groups
- Mentors
- Learners (and allocation)
- Contributions
- Comments
- Completion

