



Video Transcript: Collaborative Learning: Using Paired and Small Group Activities

Avis (00:00): Activities in which participants can learn together, deepen the learning experience, and offer an opportunity to develop skills and connections. [music]

Audio Description (00:10): Bringing Content to Life: Techniques for Effective Group Facilitation Video Series. A name tag lists the name Avis.

Avis (00:17): Collaborative Learning: Using Paired and Small Group Activities. This video provides strategies facilitators can use to introduce and manage paired work and small group activities. This video is part of a series on: Facilitating and Managing Groups. Paired and small group activities are a great way to have participants take an active role in learning. Practice skills like conflict resolution, problem solving, critical thinking, and leadership. Expose students to different ideas and approaches to learning. Reinforce and apply what they've learned. And lastly, build connections with other participants and the material. Some curricula already include paired and small group activities.

For those that don't, you can add them in. Tips for introducing and managing these activities include: Set a collaborative tone or facilitation. Creating a space that encourages young people to share and collaborate starts there. Make sure the activity has a clear purpose. It should offer an opportunity to engage with the material in a new way. Keep instructions simple. Review instructions with participants and also have them available for participants to refer back to as they complete the activity. Give clear time limits. Tell participants exactly how long they have for the activity. This is especially important to help young people stay on task. Remind participants of group agreements. Set the expectation that they engage with each other productively and respectfully. Assign roles as needed. This can be especially helpful for small group activities.

For example, roles may include: taking notes, gathering materials, and reporting back to the larger group. Move around the room. Walking around, observing, and mingling with the pairs sets you up to manage group behaviors and answer questions in real time. Encourage discussion and active participation. If your space gets a little loud, take it as a positive sign that participants are engaging with the topic and their peers. Allow time to debrief together as a large group. Give groups the opportunity to report back to the larger group after the activity.

This can be a simple report-back or an opportunity for groups to ask questions or discuss something in more detail. It's important to use different methods to group participants. Asking participants to find a group will often lead to them choosing the same people every time. Mixing up the groups gives participants the opportunity to meet and engage with the different people in this session. This is an important opportunity for participants, especially you, to expand their social skills and to learn to work with different people.

A few ways to create pairs include- Word pairing. Use related phrases like milk and cookies, or lions, tigers, and bears. To create theme groups like Food and Animals. Picture Cards. Create cards with pictures of pairs, then shuffle and pass out the cards and have participants find their pair. Nuts and bolts. Purchase a container of different sizes of bolts with corresponding nuts from a local hardware store. Place the nuts and bolts together in a plastic bag with the exact number in your group. Give each person a nut or a bolt, and then give them instructions to find the pair to their nut or bolt in the allotted amount of time.

Avis (04:11): Line up. Have participants line up according to a timeline or ranking, like a birthday. Use the information to create pairs or groups. Remember, when approached thoughtfully, paired and small group work can enhance your participants' learning experience. Look for opportunities to introduce these collaborative activities into your session. Developed by the Reproductive Health National Training Center, RHNTC, and Fact Forward.