

### Making Collaboration Work | Best Practices



#### **Cultivate Psychological Safety**

- Openness
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Trust
- Vulnerability
- Can say *anything* without fear

#### **Diversity and Inclusion**

- Be mindful of others' background / reasoning
- Acknowledge (and value) cognitive / emotional diversity
- Appreciate others' work & recognize it verbally
- Prioritize listening (there's a reason you have two ears and one mouth)

**Conflict** can be productive, and valuable, in order to explore, understand, and move ideas forward.

Explore *constructive* conflict willingly. Resolve *disruptive* conflict before it becomes *destructive*. Don't *make* it personal; don't *take* it personally.

#### **Tuckman's Team-Development Model**

- Forming what do we think we should be doing?
- **Storming** what do you you think you're doing?! (who do you think you are?)
- **Norming** now that we know one another, how do we best do this?
- **Performing** *let's get this done!*

# Divide and Conquer isn't enough

If you use **divide and conquer** (*you do this, I'll do that*) to tackle a task, make certain to precede it with **define and confer** (*who will do what? which part goes where?*), and follow it with **revise and concur** (*would that go better there? is that the best word?*) If not, you could end up with a collection of mis-matched parts that poorly represent your otherwise good work.







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It's not just about getting the work done. Use group work as an opportunity to grow, and teach, as well as perform.

#### **Running Effective Meetings**

- Agenda ("why are we meeting?" "what do we hope to discuss / decide?")
- **Check-ins** (Establish current personal contexts)
- **Roles** (rotate for freshness)
  - Facilitator
  - Time-keeper / Watchdog
  - Devil's Advocate
  - Recorder
- **Everyone** should be heard
- **Action Items** (What to do before next meeting)

# Creating and revising a Team Charter is useful to:

- Get to know your peers
- Discuss strengths & weaknesses
- Confirm communication style / methods / frequency
- Define / refine group processes
- Develop conflict resolution methods
- Establish Group dynamics / roles
- Document decision-making protocols
- Reveal personal goals for the project
- Indicate personal time / interest
- Agree upon milestones / deadlines
- Contemplate "what if?" rather than "what went wrong?"
- Lay a foundation for successful group work

#### Giving Good Feedback -

#### Receiving Feedback Well

- Be open, honest, kind with the aim of improving future work, rather than finding fault with past work
- Say what's good and why, what could be better and how
- Beginners need **encouragement** about what they are doing well
- Experienced people need **information** about what they could do better

# **Brainstorming Basics**

- Start Solo
- Defer Judgement
- Build on the Ideas of Others
- Encourage Wild Ideas
- Quantity Produces Quality
- One Conversation at a Time
- Stay Focused

"In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless but planning is indispensable."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

This is the collected wisdom of the INTEG 210 class, Fall 2019



