

Coming Together: Collaboration As A Tool Of Change For Teaching And Learning

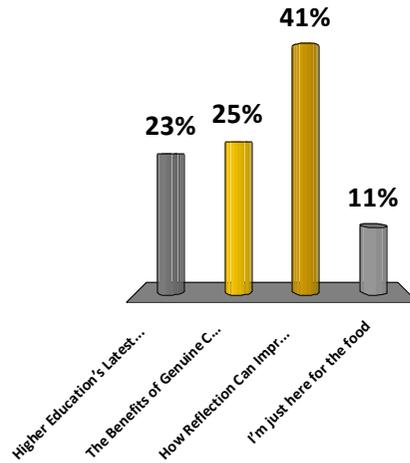
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IN THREE PARTS:

1. Collaboration in Real Time: Higher Education's Latest Challenge(s)
2. Two Heads are Better Than One: The Benefits of Genuine Collaboration
3. Going "Meta": How Reflection Can Improve Our Collaborative Efforts and Increase Learning

I'm most interested in:

- A. Higher Education's Latest Challenges
- B. The Benefits of Genuine Collaboration
- C. How Reflection Can Improve Collaboration and Learning
- D. I'm just here for the food



Part 1:
Higher
Education's
Latest
Challenge(s)



Top News In Higher Education

- **MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)**
- **Hybrid and Online Courses**
- **Accessibility of Higher Education & Competency-Based Education**
- **Economics of Higher Education (Adjuncts, Salary Freezes, Tuition, Endowments, etc.)**

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

More Change

=

More Collaboration

=

More Consternation



Defining Collaboration

- **Expansion of your own thought process**
- **Mutually agreed upon goal**
- **Representative involvement**
- **Being open to criticism**
- **Recognition and utilization of different skill sets and expertise**
- **Establishing trust**
- **Complimentary input**
- **Communication**
- **Marriage of insufficiencies**
- **Product is better than anything you could do alone**

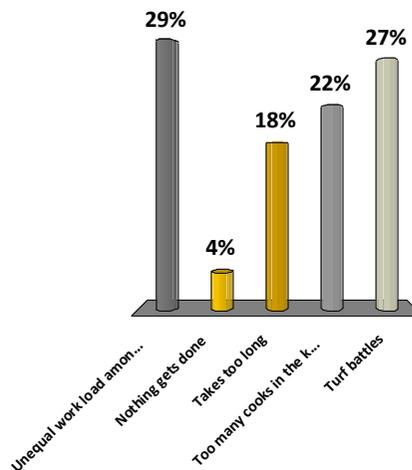
Defining Collaboration (Webster)

1. To work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor
2. To cooperate with or willingly assist an enemy of one's country and especially an occupying force
3. To cooperate with an agency or instrumentality with which one is not immediately connected

Synonyms: be in cahoots; conspire; team up; cooperate; come together

What Is Your Biggest Collaboration Challenge?

- A. Unequal work load among group members
- B. Nothing gets done
- C. Takes too long
- D. Too many cooks in the kitchen
- E. Turf battles



If it's never been easier to collaborate then why is collaboration so hard?

WHAT MAKES IT EASY

- Better technology
- Increased need for collaboration because more work to be done with less resources
- More issues & concerns between departments and units means more investment from diverse groups

WHAT MAKES IT HARD

- Lack of training
- Lack of good models
- Process-oriented attitudes can conflict with institutional and administrative timelines
- Who gets the credit for collaborative products?

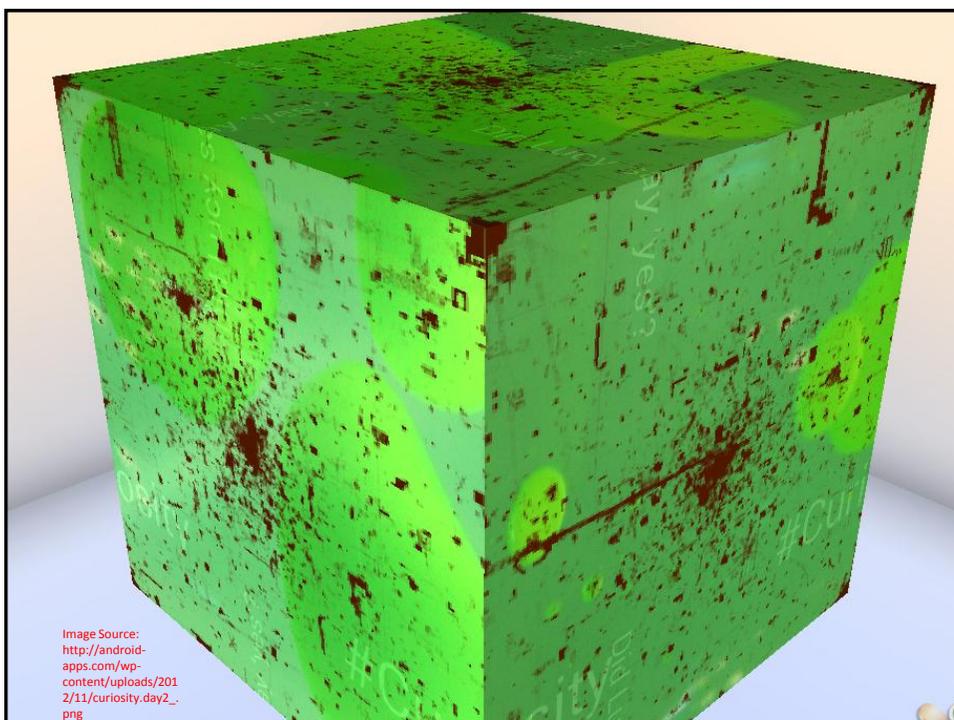


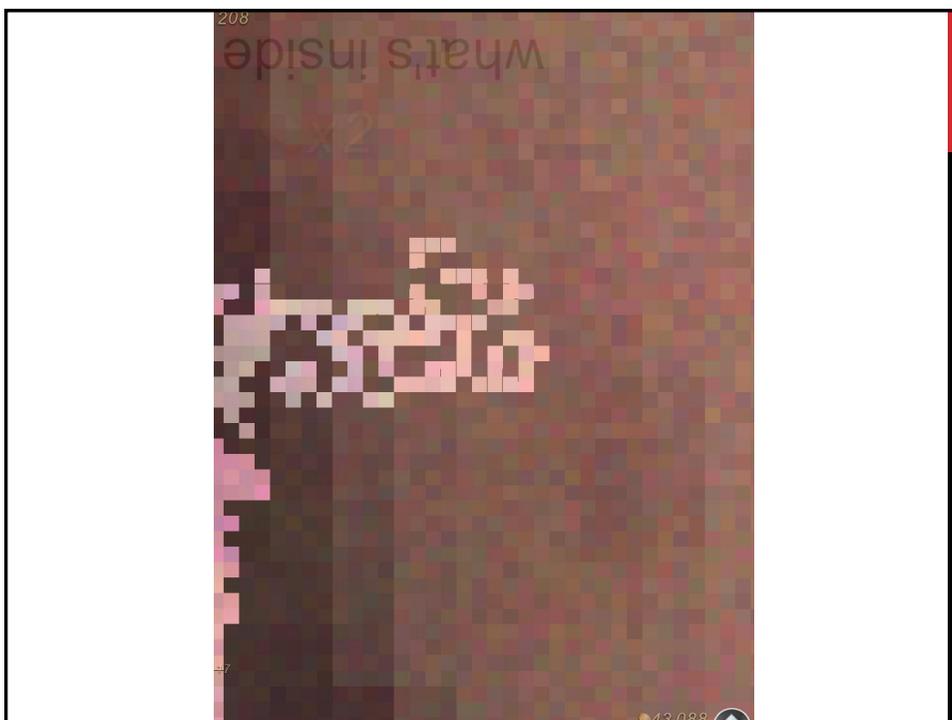
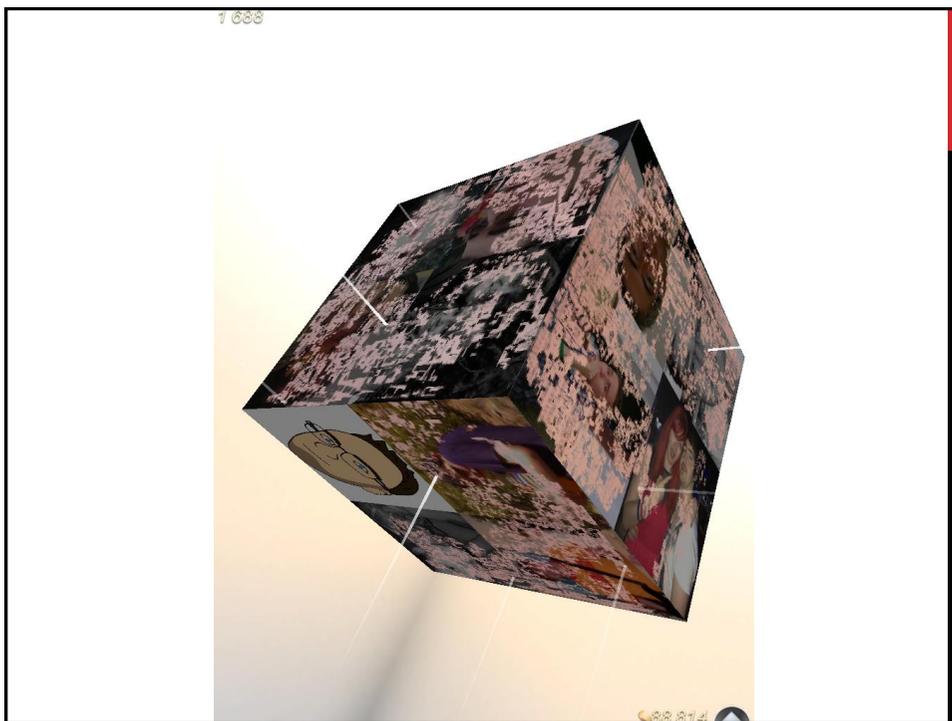


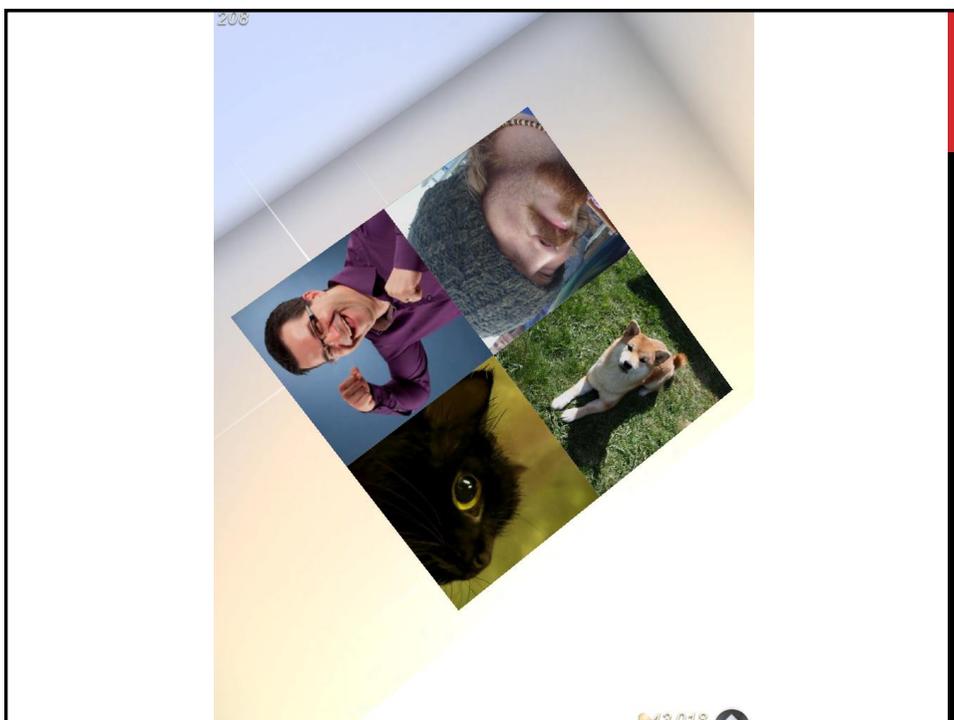
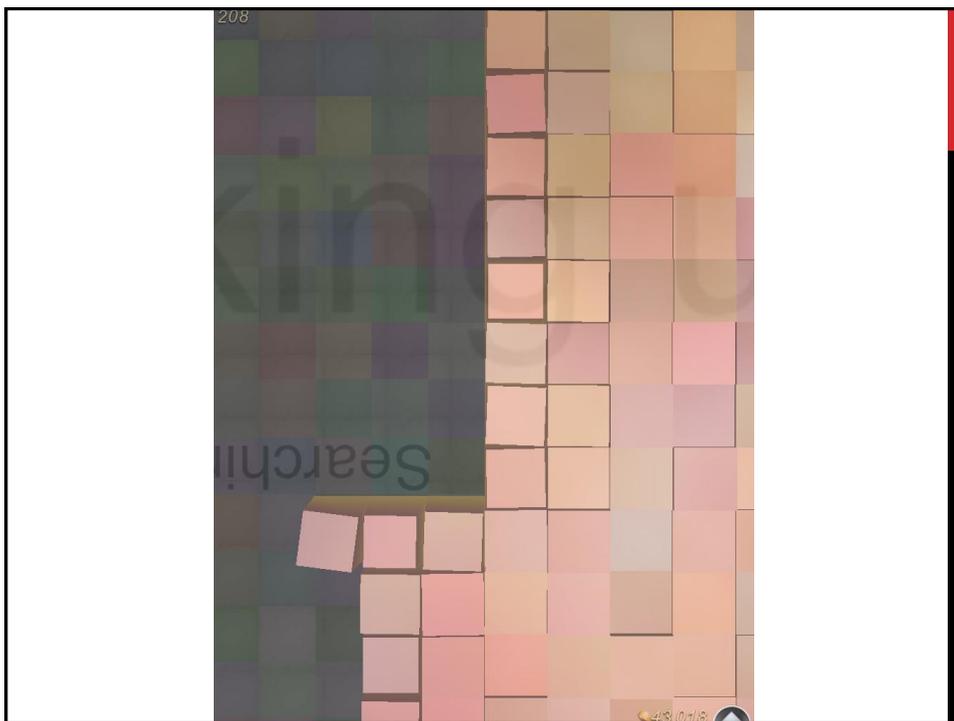
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What Makes a Collaboration Successful?

- Each person knows their own quirks
- Each person knows the other group member's quirks
- Each person knows their role within the group
- Each person performs their role fully (no free riding)
- Each group is working toward a larger vision (fighting crime, defeating Voldemort, contributing to science, unveiling layers) in which each individual is genuinely invested and wants success
- Each group has the tools they need to move forward (or they know where to find them)
- The work being done by each of these groups could not be accomplished by one person alone (or it would be detrimental to the overall vision to try and do the work alone)

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)

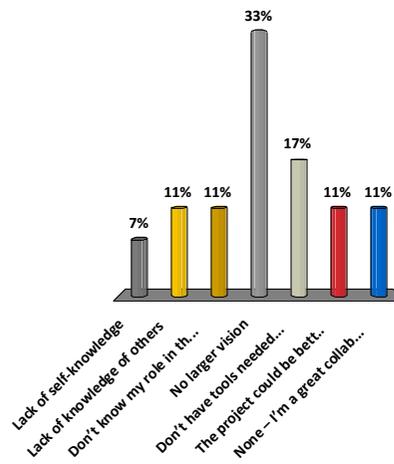
- Teacher (content & design) & Graders
- Design Assistance (MOOCs are special)
- Platform (where it's housed)
- Project Manager
- Production Team (videos, etc.)
- Technologists (uploading videos, etc.)
- Public Relations
- Security Office

...Students?

Let's Get Personal (Anonymously):

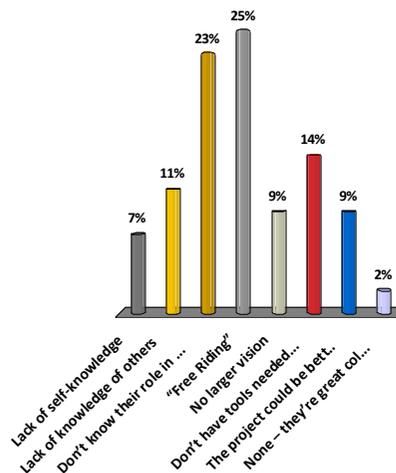
What Impedes Your Collaborative Efforts the Most?

- Lack of self-knowledge
- Lack of knowledge of others
- Don't know my role in the group
- No larger vision
- Don't have tools needed to move forward
- The project could be better completed alone
- None – I'm a great collaborator!



Let's Get Pedagogical: What Do You Think Impedes the Collaborative Efforts of Your Students?

- A. Lack of self-knowledge
- B. Lack of knowledge of others
- C. Don't know their role in the group
- D. "Free Riding"
- E. No larger vision
- F. Don't have tools needed to move forward
- G. The project could be better completed alone
- H. None – they're great collaborators!

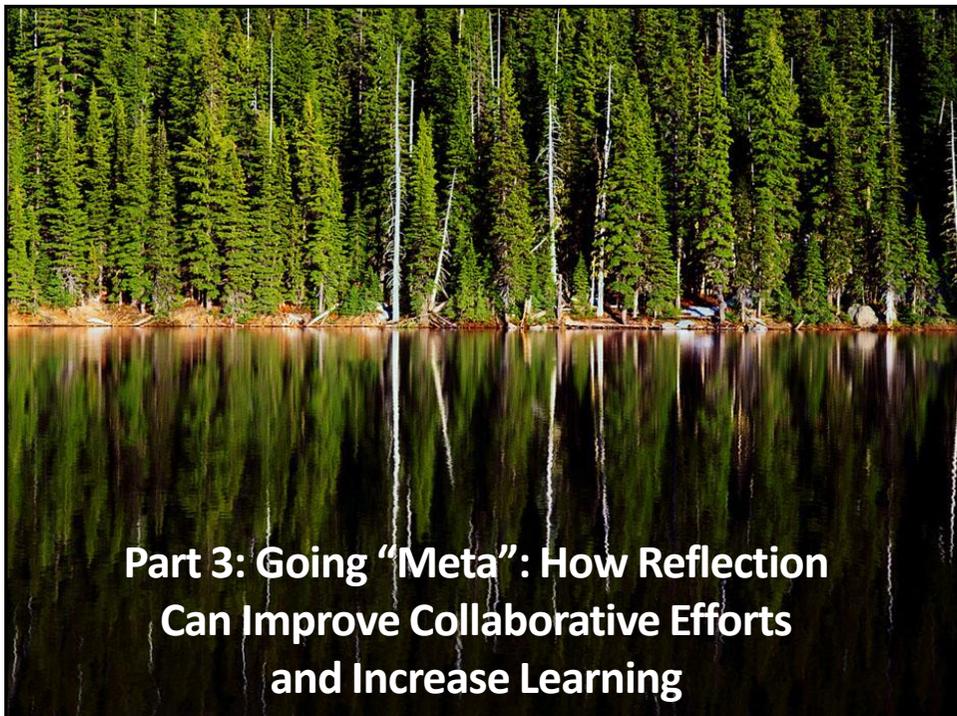
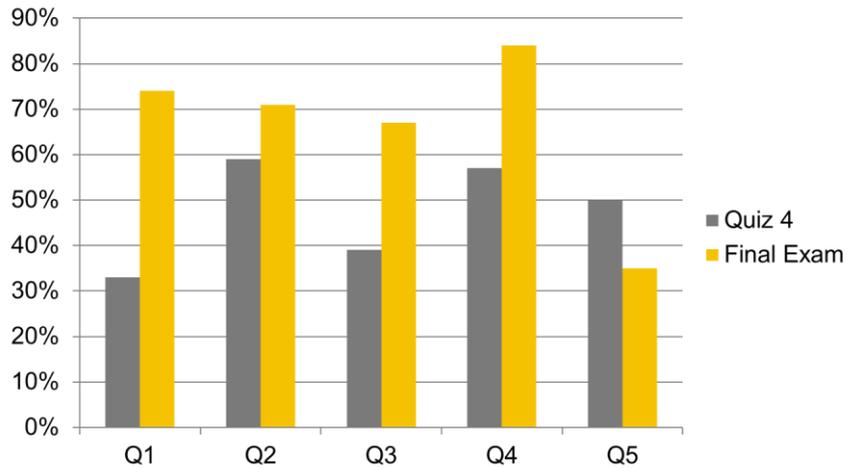


A Classroom Experiment

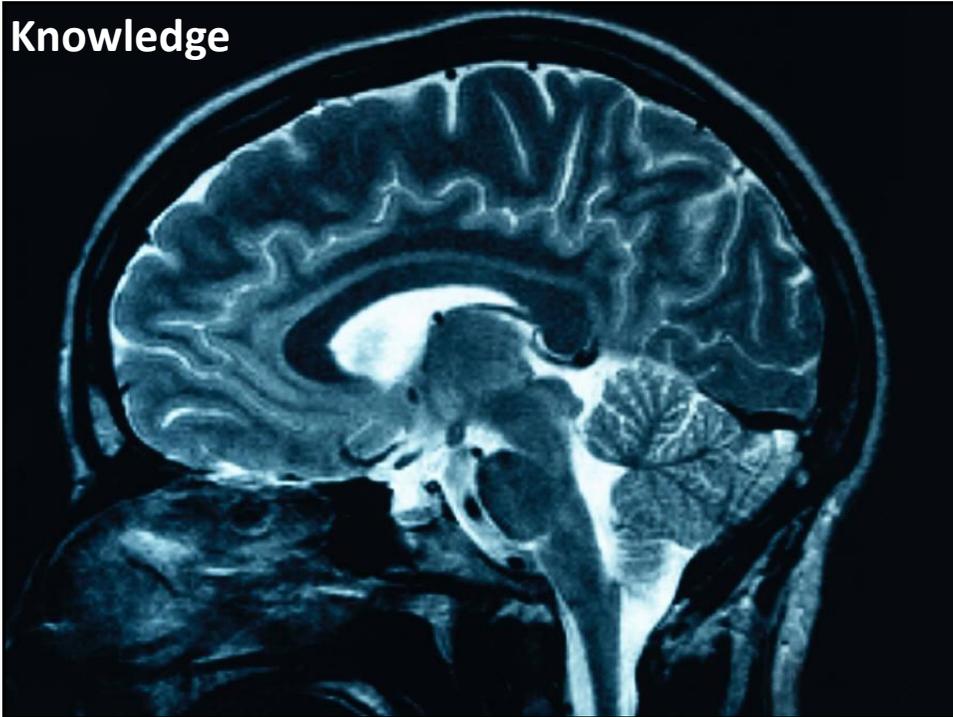


A CLASSROOM EXPERIMENT

QUIZ # 4 & FINAL EXAM



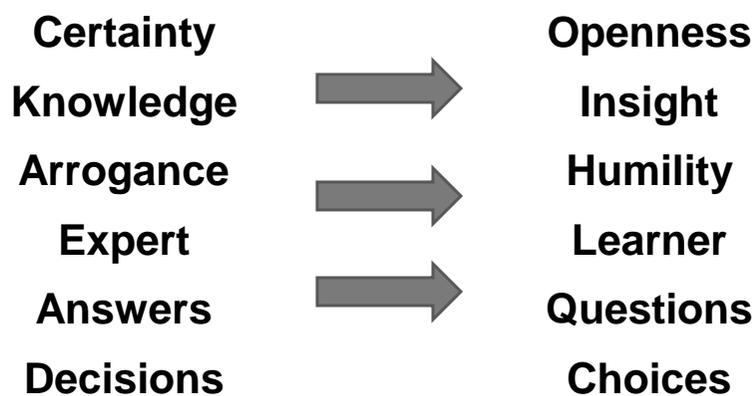
Knowledge



Meta-Collaboration Tools

- What categories on the yellow rubric handout do you think are most helpful when assessing our professional collaborations?
- Are any categories unhelpful?
- What's missing?

Learning Conversations



**Questions or
Comments?**



Collaboration By Difference

<http://blogs.hbr.org/video/2012/05/collaboration-by-difference.html>

