

Collaboration



The strength of an organization is rooted in its ability to collaborate. True collaboration requires a commitment to shared goals, a jointly developed structure and shared responsibility, mutual authority and accountability for success, and sharing of resources, risks, and rewards.

Here's a definition.

Collaboration is working with each other to do a task.

Structured methods of collaboration encourage introspection of behavior and communication. Introspection is examination of one's own conscious thoughts and feelings. Collaboration requires deeper thought. Collaboration exemplifies interdependence. Interdependence is a relationship in which each member is mutually dependent on the others.

Collaboration is a mutually beneficial and well-defined relationship entered into by two or more to achieve common goals.

Teams collaborate. Groups collaborate. Project participants collaborate. Task forces collaborate. Meeting participants collaborate. Good managers and supervisors collaborate. Effective co-workers collaborate.

Steps to Achieving Collaboration

1. Clarify the purpose
2. Let form follow function
3. Involve the right people
4. Get it in writing

Here is a good **collaborative premise**:

Within every organization, each person has a job to do. Each job and role is important to the organization. A manager's role is equally as important as their report, no matter the position. A technical or professional's role is equally important to producing a good work product as the office manager, support person or assistant's. Our job as good leaders is to support collaboration.