

# **eLearning Delaware Course Overview**

## ***Peer Collaboration***

### **OVERVIEW**

In this workshop, participants will examine the value of peer collaboration and the role it plays in a differentiated classroom. Participants will have an opportunity to build background knowledge of peer collaboration and apply it to a lesson in their content area. Topics will include an understanding of peer collaboration models, application in the content areas, support with alternative structures during whole group frontloading, management and assessment. This course explores three models: (1) small groups without tracking, (2) jigsaw, and (3) literature circles. The final project is a differentiated lesson plan that includes peer collaboration during whole group and small group, management and assessment. Participants will take part in a variety of readings, video clips and the course discussion board which fosters peer collaboration and feedback. Audience will be grades 5-12

### **GOALS**

1. Participants will be able to understand the purpose of whole group instruction vs. small group instruction
2. Participants will gain knowledge about 3 models of peer collaboration (jigsaw, literature circles and small groups without tracking)
3. Participants will recognize attributes of successful peer collaboration in the content areas.
4. Participants will understand assessment and management of peer collaboration
5. Participants will gain knowledge of alternative collaboration structures to utilize during whole group frontloading.
6. Participants will develop a standards-based lesson plan utilizing one of the models and an assessment tool taught in this course

### **FINAL PRODUCT**

The final product will be to develop a standards-based lesson plan utilizing one of the models, management and assessment tools taught in the course. Participants will have the opportunity to share their plan with their peers in the discussion forum and provide feedback to others.

### **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

This workshop is divided into six one-week sessions (after an initial orientation week) which each include readings, activities, and an online discussion among workshop participants. Participants should expect to spend 4-5 hours per week in order to adequately complete the work. The outline for the workshop is as follows:

Orientation	Introductions and Navigating Blackboard
Session One	Flexible Groups: Whole Group vs. Small Group
Session Two	Three Models of Peer Collaboration
Session Three	Peer Collaboration Across the Content Areas
Session Four	Assessment and Management of Peer Collaboration
Session Five	Alternative Collaborative Structures
Session Six	Lesson Plan Sharing and Reflection

These are suggested criteria to be used for evaluating successful participation in and completion of this workshop.

Discussion Board Postings	Participants are expected to respond to the online discussion prompt in each of the course sessions with an original posting. Participants are also expected to respond to the postings of at least two other course participants in each session. Guidelines for discussion postings, as developed by the EdTech Leaders Online, are available at the following URL: <a href="http://www.edtechleaders.org/documents/discussion_guidelines.htm">http://www.edtechleaders.org/documents/discussion_guidelines.htm</a>
Readings and Activities	Participants are expected to complete the required course readings and activities as posted in each of the session assignment pages. Optional readings may also be completed, but are not mandatory.
Final Product	Participants are expected to complete and submit the final product during the final workshop session. Final products are individual efforts. Team products are not acceptable without prior, written approval and will only be approved if the product is worthy of the time and effort of multiple participants.

### **PREREQUISITES**

This is an introductory workshop for teachers, curriculum and instructional specialists, administrators or other school personnel.

Participants are expected to have regular access to computers. In addition, participants should be proficient with using email, browsing the Internet and navigating to computer files.

### **ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP**

This course was developed by educators as part of the eLearning Delaware initiative. [eLearning Delaware](#) is Delaware's implementation of the [eLearning for Educators](#) Initiative, a project funded through a federal Ready to Teach grant and a multi-state collaboration between ten state education agencies and associated public broadcast stations. eLearning Delaware partners are the [Delaware Center for Educational Technology](#), the [Delaware Department of Education](#), and [WHYY](#).