



Educators' Teaching & Learning Initiative Update Number 3

3.3.12

⇒ “Collaboration is a relationship among people committed to supporting each other in achieving a shared goal,” writes Dennis Meadows, a designer and facilitator of international collaborative simulations. “We speak of it lightly, but collaboration is an intense discipline that doesn’t happen accidentally; it requires intention, attention, and integrity.” Collaborative inquiry is the central method of the Teaching and Learning Initiative.

⇒ Each participant in the Teaching & Learning Initiative is paired with another participant; they are Learning Partners. The importance of their developing collaboration increases at this point, as each will be observing and conferencing with the other between the third and fourth sessions. They will be reading together and applying [10 Principles and Practices of Effective Observation](#). Their pre- and post-observation conferences are guided by protocols that apply the [Norms of Collaboration](#) that participants are learning and practicing.

⇒ Building on the first two Norms of Collaboration, **pausing** and **paraphrasing to listen for understanding**, participants learned and practiced tools for the third norm, **posing questions** ([Posing Questions: Tools for Inquiring and Probing](#)).

⇒ Participants also focused on Area of Performance 3, Creating and Maintaining an Effective Environment for Student Learning. This will be the focus of the observations and conferences between sessions three and four.

⇒ The next session will focus on:

- ❑ Reflecting on experience with Area of Performance 3, and
- ❑ Learning the Framework’s fourth Area of Performance, Engaging and Supporting All Students in Learning.
