



CLIMB

Collaborative Learning and
Integrated Mentoring in the Biosciences

The CLIMB Program
Research Communication Workshops
Winter 2012
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Case Studies in Collaborations: How to promote collaborative environments and address common issues

In-class discussion: Part I (~40 minutes)

- Meet within a group, and answer these questions, which you were asked to consider in advance. Have each person share two personal experiences, of success and failure.
 - What's an example of team success, ideally one that you experienced? You may apply any definition of "success" as you prefer. A team is defined as any collaboration involving two or more people. For the purposes of this discussion, it doesn't matter if the collaboration involved science or not.
 - What behaviors helped bring about the team's success?
 - What's an example of team failure, ideally one that you experienced? You may apply any definition of "failure" as you prefer.
 - What behaviors, by their presence or absence, caused the failure?
- For *everyone* in the group, take notes about the behaviors that (a) help teams be effective and (b) cause teams to be ineffective.
- Within your group, discuss these behaviors. Have a "recorder" summarize these behaviors and record them on the blackboard for everyone to see. As your group summarizes these behaviors, they should consider these types of questions, but you don't necessarily need to explicitly answer them.
 - How would your group define success and failure? What will they look like?
 - What specific objectives do we need to reach to achieve success?
 - What value do we place on conflict? How will we resolve conflict when it occurs?

In-class discussion: Part II (~20 minutes)

- After your group has created a summary and the recorder has written them on the blackboard, one or two case studies from collaborations will be presented to the entire class. Consider how your summary of behaviors can be effectively applied to the sticky situation. Revise and edit your summary as needed, including ideas from other groups collaboratively.
- The goal is for the whole class to come up with a summary of behaviors that helps teams be effective and avoid becoming ineffective, and not necessarily to solve the case studies or conflicts. But we can also discuss the case studies in depth, if the class desires.