WHAT IS A COLLABORATIVE ASSIGNMENT?

A collaborative assignment is a learning activity in which students work together to solve problems and listen to each others’ insights while doing so. Some examples are study groups within a course, team-based assignments, and group research (AAC&U, 2023).

HIGH IMPACT ELEMENTS OF COLLABORATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

- Completion of a challenging, relevant, and complex task
- Representation of diverse perspectives in groups
- Individual accountability (Laal et al., 2013, Michigan CRTL, 2021)
- Student autonomy (Scager et al., 2016)

Collaborative Signature Assignments may have these high impact elements.
Create an environment in which students trust and respect each other. Try some ice breakers on the first day! Communicate the purpose of the activity and establish group expectations. Partner with students. This might look like co-creating expectations or rubrics, or asking students to choose their own roles. (Columbia CTL, 2023)

Learning goals or objectives
Interactions between group members
Task characteristics
Structure of group activity
Guidance provided by instructor
Space and time available for group work (de Hei et al., 2016)

Interested in talking through some collaborative assignment design? Contact Audrey Tocco for a consultation.