

## HANDOUT

### Collaborative Learning in News and Feature Production

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#### Outline of the presentation

News and feature production simulates work in a real newsroom. Production proceeds in three teams: News Team, Feature Team and Visual Team. Each team is directed by a master degree student (news producer, sub-editor, art director). Every master has subordinates, who are studying bachelor's degree (journalists, photographers, lay out pre-editors, reprograph technicians). All teams are superintended by a teacher (managing editor or visual director).

Due to working together in creating a publication, learning is a collaborative process. In collaborative learning, students evaluate each other's ideas, provide feedback to each other and share experiences with each other. Furthermore, students can ask one another for help. Working collaboratively students are motivated to do the work on time: there are several deadlines during production and everybody knows that any delay causes overwork for the others. Besides, students learn by doing something by themselves, e.g. writing articles, taking photos or managing others work. In that way students can develop their skills learnt in theory and group work classes.

Especially master degree students are encouraged and guided to develop trust-building, decision making and leadership skills by managing others work and schedules. All students are instructed to develop their communication skills. Social media is used in learning. It reinforces the collective work.

Teacher's role is to mediate and structure peer interaction, as well as, to encourage students to help and instruct one another. In collaborative learning teacher joins interdependent community, thus traditional teacher-student relationship is redefined. At its best students are learning from teachers, and reverse. Team teaching is in the core of the news and feature production: teachers maintain a close liaison with each other.

B.L. Smith & J.T. MacGregor. (1992). "What is Collaborative Learning?" In A. Goodsell, M. Maher, V. Tinto, B.L. Smith and J. MacGregor. *Collaborative Learning: A Sourcebook for Higher Education*. National Center on Postsecondary Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (NTLA) pp. 9–22. <http://evergreen.edu/facultydevelopment/docs/WhatisCollaborativeLearning.pdf> Accessed February 28, 2016.

R.M. Felder & R. Brent. (2007). "Cooperative Learning" In P.A. Mabrouk (ed.). *Active Learning: Models from the Analytical Sciences*. ACS Symposium Series 970, Chapter 4, pp. 34–53. Washington, DC: American Chemical Society. <http://www4.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/Papers/CLChapter.pdf> Accessed May 1, 2016.

## About the Speaker

Reetta Tervakangas is teaching visual journalism at University of Tampere. She has worked as a photographer for 18 years and as a graphic designer for 14 years.



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