



INTERACTIVITY FOUNDATION

COLLABORATIVE  
DISCUSSION

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CERTIFICATION

*Collaborative Discussion*

# CERTIFICATION DESCRIPTION

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We are living in an age of increased political, social, and economic interdependence. Never before have we had a greater need to think and talk together in productive ways. Yet, modern technology, social trends, and political divisions push us further apart. As we anticipate the problems of the 21st century, we must also anticipate the skills and habits of mind needed to address the complex problems that we face as a society.

**What skills are necessary to improve the creativity and productivity of groups working together? What skills will improve how we communicate with each other in the workplace and in social life? How do we best harness the knowledge and creativity of groups?**

In partnership with a team of experts and scholar practitioners, the Interactivity Foundation (IF) is piloting a certification program in Collaborative Discussion. By focusing on learning activities in 7 specific areas of practical skill building, participants who complete this program will be better equipped to work with others in productive and creative ways to address both large and small problems. This program can be adapted to fit the specific needs of any particular learning environment and program goals. The Interactivity Foundation is committed to working with all partners to create the specific program that best fits the needs of individual learning communities.

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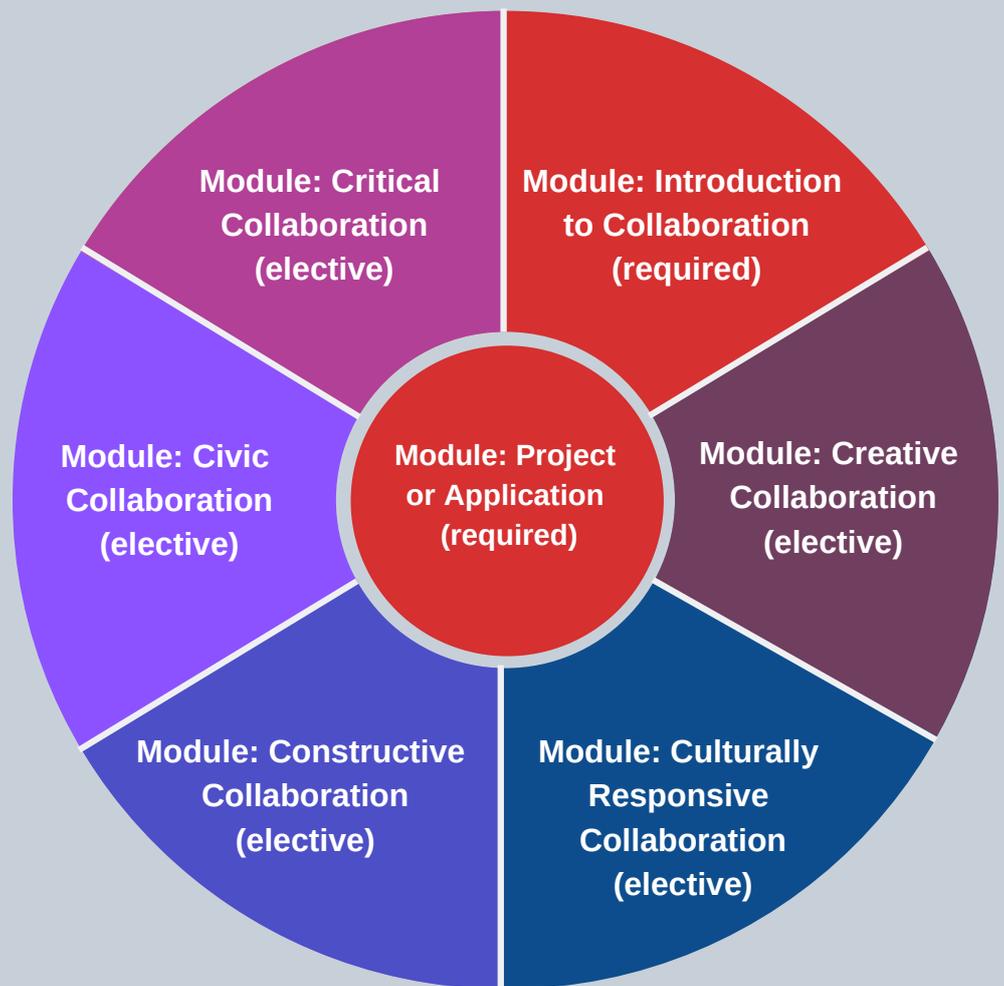
21st Century Skills

# TODAY

The IF Collaborative Discussion Certification Program can be tailored to fit the needs of any class, program, or campus. It includes 7 overarching modules created by a team of experts and scholar practitioners. To earn certification, participants must complete the 2 required modules and at least 2 elective modules.

### Each module includes:

- **Conceptual overview**
- **Learning goals & outcomes**
- **Key concepts**
- **Skill development activities**
- **Reflection & debriefing exercises**
- **Rubrics**
- **Additional resources for deeper learning**



# Certification

## REQUIREMENTS

# 7 AREAS OF SKILL BUILDING

## Required Modules

**Introduction to Collaborative Discussion:** Gain perspective on why collaborative discussion is essential in building relationships, encouraging sustained engagement, and improving possibilities.

### Creative Collaboration

Learn to create spaces and habits of mind that promote creativity within working groups and allow for new possibilities to emerge.

### Culturally Responsive Collaboration

Understand the importance of shaping inclusive conversations and what becomes possible in groups by engaging and embracing difference.

## Elective Modules

### Critical Collaboration

Develop reflective skills that call into question assumptions and biases. Develop habits that promote innovative thinking and outcomes in working groups.

### Constructive Collaboration

Build upon and elevate the ideas of others while also learning to share ideas in a productive and authentic manner.

### Civic Collaboration

Learn how to work with communities to create collaborative and sustainable change by sewing the social fabric and connections that exist in the community.

## Required Modules

**Project or Application:** Demonstrate the skills and habits of previous modules to create, organize, and implement a collaborative discussion event that reflects an understanding of key ideas and demonstrates collaborative skills, practices, and habits.

# IF Certification Program in Collaborative Discussion

## Table of Contents

### Module 1. Introduction to Collaborative Discussion

#### Topic 1. What is Collaborative Learning? Understanding Essential Elements

Activity 1A. *What Makes Collaboration Effective? A Reflective Exercise* by Nick Longo

#### Topic 2. Developing Collaborative Perspective

Activity 2A. *The Puzzle Piece* by Lori Britt

#### Topic 3. Nurturing Respect for Those at the Table

Activity 3A. *Value Statements* by Jack Byrd

#### Topic 4. Understanding Values in Context

Activity 4A. *Values Sorting*, adapted from Martin Carcasson by Lori Britt

#### Topic 5. Making Space for Everyone

Activity 5A. *Personal Space Inventory* by Jack Byrd

### Module 2. Creative Collaboration

#### Topic 1. Promoting Curiosity

Activity 1A. *Curiosity Narrative* by Jack Byrd

#### Topic 2. Embracing Contradictions

Activity 2A. *Harry's Contradictions* by Jack Byrd

#### Topic 3. Seeking Innovation

Activity 3A. *Mind Map + Good Words* by Jack Byrd

#### Topic 4. Being Bold and Taking Risks

Activity 4A. *Future of Higher Ed* by Jack Byrd

#### Topic 5. Cultivating a Willingness to Play

Activity 5A. *Name it and Sell It* by Lori Britt

#### Topic 6. Expanding Thinking

Activity 6A. *Using Metaphors in Problem Solving* adapted by Lori Britt

#### Topic 7. Encouraging Bold Imagination

Activity 7A. *Writing the History of the Future* by Jeff Prudhomme

### Module 3. Critical Collaboration

#### Topic 1. Understanding the Key Elements of Critical Thinking

Activity 1A. *CLUES Model for Critical Dialogue* adapted from *Clued in to Politics* by Christine Barbour and Matthew Streb by Jessica Friedrichs

#### Topic 2. Awareness of Context, Bias, & Assumptions

Activity 2A. *Suspending Assumptions* by Lori Britt

#### Topic 3. Developing Comfort with Ambiguity

Activity 3A. *Moral Dilemmas* by Jack Crittenden

#### Topic 4. Seeking Divergent Thinking and Understanding

Activity 4A. *Surrounding the Topic* by Shannon Wheatley Hartman

#### Topic 5. Anticipating Implications and (Un)Intended Consequences

Activity 5A. *What If... Scenario Discussion* by Jack Byrd

### Module 4. Culturally Responsive Collaboration

#### Topic 1. Practicing Cultural Humility

Activity 1A. *Identity Pie* by Richard Kiely

#### Topic 2. Taking the Perspective of Others

Activity 2A. *The Continuum Exercise* by Janice McMillan

#### Topic 3. Embracing Complexity

Activity 3A. *Creating a Covid19 Task Force* by Janice McMillan

#### Topic 4. Nurturing Critical Empathy

Activity 4A. [forthcoming]

#### Topic 5. Demonstrating Curiosity and Openness

Activity 5A. *Asking Questions to Promote Curiosity* by Lori Britt

#### Topic 6. Recognizing Power Imbalances in Decision-Making

Activity 6A. *The Bean Activity* by Janice McMillan

### Module 5. Constructive Collaboration

#### Topic 1. Listening to Understand

Activity 1A. *The Active Listening Exercise* by Jessica Friedrichs

#### Topic 2. Building on the Ideas of Others

Activity 2A. *Yes, and +* by Jack Byrd

#### Topic 3. Expressing Beliefs with Confidence

Activity 3A. *Creating Strategies for Sharing Ideas* by Jack Byrd

#### Topic 4. Practicing Generosity of Interpretation

Activity 4A. *Calling Upon Your Best Self* by Shannon Wheatley Hartman

#### Topic 5. Dealing with Conflict

Activity 5A. *Setting Ground Rules & Using CPR* by Jack Byrd

#### Topic 6. Recognizing Complexity

Activity 6A. *The Fishbone Diagram* by Jack Byrd

#### Topic 7. Building and Shifting the Discourse

Activity 7A. *The Escalating Memes Activity* by Timothy Ruback

### Module 6. Civic Collaboration

#### Topic 1. Identifying Your Civic Passion

Activity 1A. *Civic Sweet Sixteen* by Jessica Friedrichs

#### Topic 2. Developing an Awareness of Stakeholders

Activity 2A. *Who has a Stake? A Mapping Exercise* by Lori Britt

#### Topic 3. Identifying Your Communities

Activity 3A. *Mapping Communities* by Janice McMillan

#### Topic 4. Seeing Communities as Partners

Activity 4A. *The Interview Process* by *Discovering Community Power* and adapted by Nick Longo

#### Topic 5. Developing a Public Narrative and Story of Self

Activity 5A. *Self + Us + Now* by Marshall Ganz and adapted by Michele Rudy

### Module 7. Collaborative Discussion Projects

#### Project 1. Identify and Value the Knowledge of the Community

Activity 1A. *Create a Knowledge Tree with Members of the Community* by Janice McMillan

#### Project 2. (Co) Design a Collaborative Discussion Process about a Complex Issue on Your Campus or Within Your Community

Activity 2A. *Bring Your Government* by Warm Cookies of the Revolution

#### Project 3. Demonstrate and Share What You Have Learned about Collaborative Discussion

Activity 3A. *Lead a Workshop, Conference Presentation, or Training Activity*

Activity 3B. *Publish a Reflective or Descriptive Writing on Collaborative Discussion*

#### Project 4. Organize a Discussion Event that Applies Collaborative Discussion Skills

Activity 4A. *Organize an Online Community Conversation*

Activity 4B. *How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse* by Warm Cookies of the Revolution

#### Project 5. Create Materials that Help Others to Engage in Collaborative Discussion

Activity 5A. *Produce a Discussion Guide on a Relevant Topic*

#### Project 6. Practice Collaborative Discussion that Leads to Decision-Making

Activity 6A. *Organize a Legislative Jury* by Debra Campbell

Activity 6B. *Organize a People vs. \_\_\_\_ Event* by Warm Cookies of the Revolution



## Earn Certification in Collaborative Discussion



**If you are a student or community member** looking to build skills in collaborative discussion, you can enroll in our online course offered by **College Unbound (fall 2020) or IF Classroom (spring 2021)**. Participants will have the opportunity to work with others through synchronous and asynchronous learning activities as well as community-based exercises. The program is designed for independent learners who are comfortable working online. These online classes will be taught by experienced faculty and scholar practitioners.



**If you are a teacher**, you can become a **Certification Coach** and offer this program in your pre-existing or new class. This program is designed to be process-oriented. It can fit into most disciplines and classroom topics. The ready-to-use activities will require approximately 15 hours of class time over the course of a semester. The Interactivity Foundation will work with cohorts of faculty prior to each semester and will offer 1-on-1 support to faculty coaches. Workshops, webinars, trainings, and deeper collaboration will also be available.



**If you are working in the community or in professional development** and would like to participate in or offer this program to your community members, please connect with us directly about creating a program that works best for your learning community. Examples might be to create a brown bag series, office trainings, or community workshops. The Interactivity Foundation will work with community members to create and tailor a program that best fits specific learning needs.

**To learn more about how to join, incorporate, or offer an IF Certification Program in Collaborative Discussion, please email Shannon Wheatley Hartman at [esw@interactivityfoundation.org](mailto:esw@interactivityfoundation.org)**

