

Collaborative Exams

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BENEFITS:

- ★ ACTIVE LEARNING DURING EXAM
 - Good students learn by teaching
 - Poor students learn from good students
(more than they would from leaving questions blank!)
- ★ IMPROVED STUDENT CONFIDENCE
 - No recourse to authority during exam
- ★ IMPROVED EXAM SCORES
 - Fewer questions left blank

CONCERNS:

- ★ STUDENT "PIGGYBACKING"
 - Some students just copy from peers
(better for them to leave questions blank?)
- ★ DECREASED STUDYING FOR EXAM
 - Studying = memorizing to students
⇒ no memorizing requires no studying
- ★ FALSELY IMPROVED EXAM SCORES
 - Copying isn't learning

Collaborative Exams

PHILOSOPHY:

★ *THE GOAL IS LEARNING*

Exams should help students learn

★ *MORE ACCOMPLISHED BY WRITING SOMETHING*

Skipped questions DON'T serve

- learning
- student interest in astronomy
- student confidence
- teacher confidence

Skipped questions DO serve

- grading
- science phobia
- student passivity
- teacher frustration

★ *SCIENCE IS COLLABORATIVE*

Talk encourages reasoning not remembering

⇒ exams model science, not spelling bees

★ *EXAMS BECOME POSITIVE EXPERIENCES*

Few panic attacks, tears, anger, hate stares

★ *COURSE GRADES BASED ON MORE THAN EXAMS*