# FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE
### Nurturing Brilliance ★ Transforming Generations

**Dear Students,**

This month's topic is **'Collaboration'**.

**Collaboration** is the ability to work jointly with others or together especially to create or achieve or reach the same goal by sharing ideas and skills.

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*"Alone we are smart. Together we are brilliant"— Steven Anderson*

## Why?

Collaboration is a working practice which enables you to work within teams and with different teams to achieve a set goal. Collaboration flourishes when there is a willingness to accept new practices and thinking.



## How?

**Collaboration** is the first step of any creative process and can be as successful and fruitful as you want it to be. It largely relies on openness and knowledge sharing on part of all those who are involved. Working in teams will often help you to be quicker and more effective in your work, as compared to working on projects by yourself. Most importantly, once you start a full-time job, learning to collaborate will help you become more responsible and will raise your motivation levels - especially when you are working with virtual teams.

*Following is a list of how students can practice the art of collaboration:*

- Engage in subject-specific discussions with peers

- Learn how to work cooperatively and support each other

- Develop effective teamwork and communication (including interpersonal and cross-cultural awareness) skills

- Absorb multiple views to deepen knowledge and promote critical thinking

- Foster individual accountability to the team

- Develop independent learning strategies

- Structure out-of-class learning

- Reduce learner isolation

*Did you know?*
*75% of employers rate teamwork and collaboration as "very important"*

## Advantages of Collaboration

**- Brainstorming -** will allow you to come together on a common platform and work towards the achievement of a common goal by thinking, brainstorming, and offering various perspectives to provide solutions.

**- Providing Value** - will help you work towards the same goal and inspire fellow members with a strong sense of purpose. The team will see value in working together as the common goal and gives a meaningful reason to work together.

**- Equal Partaking** - will provide you and every team member with equal opportunities to participate and communicate their ideas.

**- Promoting Self-Analysis** - will challenge you to think, communicate and receive clarity about your capabilities.

**- Helps in Problem Solving** - when a variety of knowledge and skills are pooled, it creates a talent pool that is vast and more competent, able and experienced.

**- It Teaches** - when collaborating, you are essentially learning new things from each other.

*"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships" - Michael Jordan*

figure 1

figure 2

figure 3

figure 4
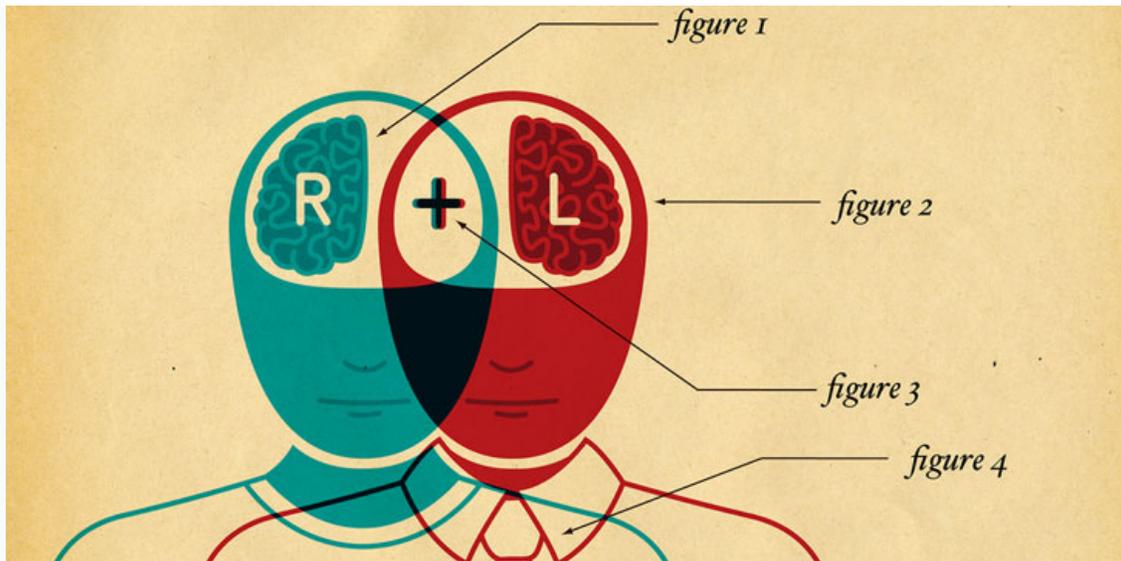
### *Top Qualities of Great Collaborators:*

*'Collaboration'* was one of the top 3 soft skills employers are looking for in candidates in 2016.

Here are a few qualities worthy of developing to be a good collaborator:

- Team focused- Practice on being a team player where the focus is "we" rather than "I".
- Generous- Be generous to take the first step and pitch in regardless of the spotlight.
- Curious - Practice asking the right questions as the right time.
- Appreciative - Express appreciation as often as you can.
- Listens to understand - Listen attentively to what is being said.
- Diplomatic - Being diplomatic builds respect and trust mutually no matter how big or small the team is.

*Did you know?*
*A study found that 97 percent of employees and executives agreed that the level of collaboration directly impacts the outcome of a task or project.*

## How can you collaborate with FFE?

FFE scholars can collaborate with FFE in 2 ways:

- Spread the word about the FFE Scholarship Program - refer meritorious and deserving students to the FFE scholarship program at the beginning of the scholarship season.

*Please Note: The scholarship renewal process will begin at the end of July. Keep an eye out for an email from the Scholarship Team with details and directions.\*\*Remember to check your spam folder, in case FFE's emails are sent there.\*\* Please make sure to submit by the deadline so you don't face any financial penalty.*

- Donate to FFE

    **Join** fellow FFE Alumni donors who have been generously contributing to FFE.

### FFE Alumni - Donor Feature
### Yathish Malleshaiah

*"I am a 2014 FFE Scholar from Huriyappana Palya, Shivagange in rural Bangalore, Karnataka. We are a family of 4. My father worked at a factory and my mother is a homemaker. Realising the importance of good education, my family relocated to Bangalore when I was 4 years old. Our family income was barely enough to make ends meet, but despite this, my father was keen that I pursue a professional degree.*

*While I was considering pursuing Engineering, my friend introduced me to FFE. With the financial support and encouragement from FFE, I have been able to pursue my education without borrowing money to finance my education. In addition to the scholarship, FFE gave me*

*opportunities to attend several workshops for career readiness. I am indebted to FFE for making this possible.*

*After completing my studies in Electronics and Communication Engineering at Bangalore Institute of Technology, Bangalore I joined Robert Bosch as a Software Engineer where I have been working for more than 2 years now.*

*It has been a meaningful journey for me and I wanted to continue to be a part of the FFE family. I am now an FFE Donor and it gives me great pleasure to be able to help other meritorious and hardworking students complete their education.*

*Today, it is with great joy that I give back to FFE as it has helped me in making my dreams come true".*

### Additional Resources:

1. Watch these short TED talks to see collaboration makes a difference in everyday lives.
2. Suggested Reading: **Collaborative Intelligence: Thinking with People Who Think Differently** by Dawna Markova and Angie McArthur. The book discusses collaborative intelligence as a measure of our ability to think with others on behalf of what matters to us all. It is emerging as a new professional currency at a time when the way we think, interact and innovate is shifting.
3. Tools for Collaboration:

**a. Tracking tools to help you visually observe how you approached an idea, and offer new ways of getting hands-on with a concept:**

Evernote
Google Drive
Springpad
Catch
Trello

**b. Tools for categorising as you go and make sure what you find can be easily shared:**

Wikibot
Instapaper
iBooks

**c. Tools for file sharing platforms:**

Box.net
Wikisend
Zoho
Yousendit

**d. Tools for presenting and collection:**

GatherContent
Yammer
Cozimo
Huddle

**e. Tools for project management:**

Producteev
Basecamp
Podio
Teambox