Stage 2 Scientific Studies

Collaborative Inquiry: Checklist for students when preparing the personal journal

and evaluation (recorded presentation)

There are some particular features in the subject outline that need to be addressed in the journal and evaluation (recorded presentation) for school assessment of the Collaborative Inquiry.

The following questions help to guide students through those aspects.

Teachers may also find that these questions are useful when reviewing students’ progress in the journal and /or a draft of their recorded presentation.

Consider the Personal Journal:

* Have I made notes/comments about my progress and what I have done?
* Have I included reference to the contributions of other group members (e.g. what ideas different people had, who volunteered to do what? How we made decisions, summary of key conversations) and how we have worked together?
* Does my journal show any agreed timeframe (dates, times spent on a task etc) or collaboration protocols, such as team rules, group responsibilities?
* Have I included an investigable question, hypothesis or a proposed solution?
* Is there evidence of deconstructing the problem/designing the prototype?
* Are the different variables/features identified?
* Is there evidence of selecting and/or trialling equipment, apparatus, models etc?
* What evidence of collaboration have I included?
* Does the representation of primary data collected show the stages in the inquiry? Is the representation clear and appropriate?
* Is there evidence of some analysis or interpretation of the results/outcomes (e.g. with annotations of the primary data)?
* Have connections between the results and science concepts been made?
* Is there evidence of critical thinking in my journal?

Consider the recorded presentation:

* Have I stated the title of my investigation and the problem, need or opportunity the group was addressing??
* Have I evaluated the effectiveness of the collaboration within the group or have I simply described it?
* Have I discussed the contribution of all group members in terms of collaboration and the impact this had on the investigation results/outcomes (e.g. can I explain how a collaborative activity/behaviour was effective/ineffective?)

These questions are neither exhaustive nor compulsory but provide ideas for students to help them to meet the requirements of the subject outline.