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# Peer-to-Peer DOs and DON'Ts Checklist

The degree to which peer-to-peer learning benefits your students depends on your approach. Below, we've assembled a list of recommendations to help you succeed.



## DOs

- Gather a core group of engaged and passionate colleagues to steer the initiative.
- Shape a psychologically and physically safe learning environment.
- Set learning objectives for both learners and faculty prior to beginning any peer-to-peer activities.
- Coach faculty to oversee the learning experience, identify recurring themes, and create opportunities for participants to bond.
- Supervise learners until they can comfortably operate equipment and run scenarios.
- Establish concrete expectations (i.e. group size, individual roles, time limits)
- Train learners on how to give and receive valuable feedback with their peers.
- Specify how learners can address questions or confusion following their session.
- Welcome learners to share their ideas regarding how to improve the learning experience.



## DON'Ts

- Fail to define the scope and goals of peer-to-peer learning to learners and faculty.
- Forget to orient learners to their surroundings or advise them of potential hazards.
- Hand over the plan and walk away. *It's best to stay involved until faculty, staff, and learners understand the intent behind peer-to-peer learning.*
- Assume faculty and staff know their role. *Peer-to-peer learning requires letting go of a certain level of control – make sure your faculty knows that this is ok!*
- Hope that everything will go perfectly. *Put your mind at ease by making a plan for troubleshooting technical issues should they arise.*
- Forget that peer-to-peer learning is all about engagement! *Keep it light, fun, and energetic.*
- Discount feedback gathered from learners, faculty, and staff. *Instead, document and report on it.*
- Neglect structure and standardization. *The opportunity for success lies in having the proper set of tools to set benchmarks, measure, and improve.*
- Ignore the negative feedback you may receive. *That is where there is room to improve!*

**Peer-to-peer learning can help to increase confidence, improve competence, and decrease anxiety in learners.<sup>1</sup> By using this checklist, you can ensure that your organization and faculty are fostering the best possible environment to maximize the benefits of peer-to-peer learning.**

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