❶ “… people are cooperating when they adjust their actions so that each person achieves their individual goals, whereas people are collaborating when their actions are adjusted in order to achieve a shared goal.”

❷ “The act of having to make sense to a peer challenges someone to clarify and communicate in such a way that their own understanding is enhanced.”

❸ “There is no reason to assume that putting learners into groups and giving them a joint task will necessarily lead them to collaborating.”

❹ “The design of a task given to a group of learners has a significant impact on whether they collaborate with each other. There are some obvious patterns to follow. The task must not be ‘decomposable’, in other words capable of being broken down into parts which group members can complete alone – especially into a single part which one group member can tackle while others engage in what has come to be known as ‘social loafing’, and waiting for someone else to do the work.”

❺ “Collaborative learning in classrooms will not happen unless teachers play their part in planning for it … learners’ planning is crucial too. … So when it comes to the issue of how will collaborative learning flourish and maintain in a classroom, the balance between teacher and pupils and between planning and reviewing is important to consider.”