

## Communities of Practice (CoP)

### What are Communities of Practice?

The concept of a community of practice refers to the process of social learning that occurs when people who have a common interest in some subject or problem collaborate to share ideas find solutions and build knowledge in that subject area. We understand collaboration as more than one person working on an individual project or task. Collaboration requires communication shared responsibilities interaction and exercised accountability.

### Educational Value

Provide faculty with a mechanism for	Provide students with a means for
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing knowledge and ideas with community members.</li> <li>• Organizing and structuring communication to meet the particular needs of a community and subgroups.</li> <li>• Communicating with professionals working in the field.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing knowledge and ideas with other students or learners</li> <li>• Organizing and structuring the community to meet the particular needs of a community and subgroups that conform it.</li> <li>• Communicating with professionals working in the field</li> </ul>

### Examples of Classroom Application

### Getting Started

Contact the CID at [cid@vcc.ca](mailto:cid@vcc.ca). An IA can help you determine if Communities of Practice are right for your class and explain how to plan a lesson using them.

### More Information

<i>Educational:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Building Effective Communities of Practice</i>. Etienne Wenger. <a href="http://www.ewenger.com/theory/start-up_guide_PDF.pdf">http://www.ewenger.com/theory/start-up_guide_PDF.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Communities of Practice Overview</i> <a href="http://www.infed.org/biblio/communities_of_practice.htm">http://www.infed.org/biblio/communities_of_practice.htm</a></li> </ul>