

“Collaborative Mission: “Save the Smart City”

Author: Mara Masseroni, AICA

Reviewer: Pierfranco Ravotto, AICA

Objective

Develop students' collaborative skills by engaging them in the solution of an authentic problem, promoting effective communication, active listening, negotiation, critical thinking, and individual accountability. The activity also encourages the purposeful use of Artificial Intelligence as a tool for reflection and for improving group decision-making.

Durata

60 minutes

Activity: teams of 4 participants

Scenario

The local municipality is about to launch a new **Smart City**, designed to improve citizens' quality of life through intelligent technologies. Just a few days before the official opening, however, several critical issues emerge: traffic congestion threatens to paralyse the city centre, energy consumption exceeds forecasts, waste management systems are proving inefficient, and emergency services are not adequately coordinated. Each team has been appointed as an Innovation Task Force and is responsible for developing an action plan before the city's official launch.

1. Information Analysis (10 minutes)

Each student receives a different briefing document.

For example:

- Urban Mobility
- Energy
- Environment
- Public Services

Each briefing contains data, maps, charts, and descriptions of critical issues.

Task

Each participant analyses their own briefing individually, identifying:

- the main challenges;
- opportunities for improvement;
- possible interventions.

Rule

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Briefing documents cannot be exchanged. Each student becomes the specialist for their assigned area and is responsible for sharing the information with the rest of the team

2. Developing the Solution (20 minutes)

Each student presents the information contained in their briefing document to the rest of the team. The group then combines all the available information to design a shared solution.

Task

The team must:

- identify the three highest priorities for improving the Smart City;
 - select no more than three interventions;
 - justify every decision with clear evidence;
 - assign roles and responsibilities to each team member.
- Throughout the discussion, every decision must be shared, discussed, and supported by appropriate reasoning.

3. Consulting the AI Advisor (15 minutes)

Only after developing an initial proposal may the team consult Artificial Intelligence.

Interaction with AI

Students use a prompt such as:

"Act as an expert Smart City consultant. Analyse our action plan. Identify two critical issues that we may have overlooked and suggest possible improvements without solving the problem for us."

Task

The team critically evaluates the suggestions generated by the AI.

For each recommendation, students must decide whether to:

- accept it;
- adapt it;
- reject it.

Every decision must be justified.

In this way, AI becomes a critical friend that supports reflection and discussion rather than making decisions on behalf of the group.

4. Presentation and Debriefing (15 minutes)

Each team presents its action plan in a three-minute presentation.

The presentation should clearly explain:

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- the proposed solution;
- the most challenging decision the team had to make;
- the contribution made by each team member;
- how AI suggestions were incorporated—or deliberately rejected.

Whole-Class Discussion

The teacher facilitates a reflective discussion by asking questions such as:

- Which behaviours contributed most to effective collaboration?
- At what point did someone else's perspective lead you to change your mind?
- Which AI suggestions did you decide not to follow, and why?
- How did your team manage disagreements during the decision-making process?

Assessment Criteria (for the teacher)

The teacher observes the collaborative process using a simple observation rubric.

Particular attention is given to:

- the quality of communication within the team;
- the ability to listen to and value others' contributions;
- active participation and individual accountability;
- the ability to negotiate shared decisions;
- the critical and purposeful use of Artificial Intelligence to support decision-making.

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