Collaborating on Vision
Deciding what to do together, together.

Steve Smith • @orderedlist
Let’s talk about **WHY** vision needs collaboration.
People on a team have *areas of expertise*. 
People on a team have areas of responsibility.
But, the **idea** and the **project** belong to everybody.
Your coworkers deserve to feel empowered.
Everyone needs to know what **why** they’re building.
Spirit vs. the letter of the law.
After all, our work is intended for people.
We use the term **audience**.
If we have an **audience**, our work is **a performance**.
Like music, our work is more than just **notes** and **words**.
A good performance needs soul and emotion.
It requires **understanding**, not just **knowing** the song.
Our work is the performance of an idea, a collaboration on a purpose.
Knowing why is empowering
It gives a collective sense of direction
Quality is everyone's job
Understand the purpose to judge quality
Empowered people care
They make things better
Great, but **HOW** do we do it?
Talk to each other. All the time.
Brainstorming is different than collaboration.
Brainstorming is working on a problem.
Brainstorming can happen organically.
Collaboration is working on a solution.
Collaboration must happen intentionally.
Collaborate over a proposed solution, not a vague idea.
Favor text over voice for making decisions.
Keep a record of *how* you made the decision.
Allow everyone to participate in refining an idea.
That does not mean it’s a free-for-all.
Respect your teammates experience.
Respect your teammates voice.
HOW?

Respect your teammates.
Ask the right questions.
BAD

Why are we doing it this way?
GOOD

Why are we doing it this way?
Allow the idea to **evolve**.
Allow initial assumptions to be proven incorrect.
Allow yourself to be **wrong**. It’s OK. **I promise.**
What’s that process look like?
At GitHub, it’s constantly changing
For initial conversations, we use **Pull Requests**
How?

Another Sample Project #4

orderedlist commented on Apr 2

Here's the description

kkubasik commented on Apr 2

I agree, let's do this.

Add more commits by pushing to the add-another-sample-project branch on orderedlist/design-example-repo.

This pull request can be automatically merged. You can also merge branches on the command line.
Another Sample Project

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What is the goal of this Project?

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Another Sample Project

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What is the goal of this Project?

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But in reality, use what works for you
Communicate with people
Mind your words, they are important
Document your decisions
People need context
Be flexible
Adapt the idea as you work and learn
Encourage real feedback
Let others make your work better
Together we can make GREAT things.

Thank you!