Code Collaboration Scenarios

Below are a few scenarios that might happen when students collaborate. The course policy is *never share code* on assignments. Read and discuss each scenario with your group.

**Scenario 1:**
Sangeeta and Alix are good friends and are taking the same CS class. They are working on an assignment independently. Alix quickly figured out what to do but Sangeeta got really stuck. Sangeeta asked Alix for help. Sangeeta took a piece of paper out of her bag and the two discussed the problems on paper. Then, Alix drew up the solution and walked Sangeeta through it. Sangeeta then applied the newfound insight to her own work independently and managed to finish it on time.
1. Is this appropriate collaboration? Why or why not?
2. Is there any way that this collaboration can be improved? If so, in what way?

**Scenario 2:**
On another assignment, Sangeeta and Alix worked together on paper, before they started coding independently. Again, Alix quickly finished the lab but Sangeeta was stuck with a bug. Then Sangeeta asked Alix for help. Alix looked through Sangeeta’s code and commented, “That’s pretty much what I had. I am not exactly sure what went wrong.” Sangeeta then said, “Let’s compare our code so I can figure out where the bug is.”
3. Should they compare code? Why or why not?
4. Can you give some suggestions on how the two should collaborate instead?

**Scenario 3:**
It’s late at night in the CS lab. Lynn had made some progress after spending the entire day in the lab. Now, she’s about to leave. Vincent, on the other hand, had made little progress so far. Just when Lynn was about to leave, Vincent came up and asked Lynn questions but she couldn’t stay. Then Vincent suggested to take a picture of Lynn’s code. Lynn agreed.
5. Is this appropriate collaboration? Why or why not?
6. What consequences might occur?

**Scenario 4:**
On the same night, instead of asking to take pictures of Lynn’s code, Vincent shouted: “I’m so tired of this!” Then he asked to copy Lynn’s code to his assignment and promised to cite it.
7. Is this appropriate collaboration, if Vincent copied and cited Lynn’s code?
8. What consequences might occur?