Team Appraisal (100 word min) Update: March 9 Update: March 23

1. Justification for your team decisions.   
a. What factors were considered?

When making decisions as a team, we often considered each other’s worldviews and how we individually practice empathy. We also considered the possibility of individual biases and group biases. To counteract these we often consulted others for more opinions and made sure to do adequate stakeholder research before designing.  
b. Why were these factors important?

Being empathetic and inclusive in our decision making allowed us to understand one another and avoid conflicts as a group. When we sense a disagreement, our group is good at identifying differing views and voicing opposing opinions. Ultimately, this discourse allows us to move forward.  
c. How was inclusivity considered?

Inclusivity in the group is a core tenet, and since we all come from different backgrounds, it is important that we are inclusive of one another’s ideas. Building on the idea from before, one of the factors that helps us to avoid conflict and be inclusive is the voicing of differing opinions in a constructive manner. We often voice our opinions without malicious intent. This allows the person receiving the criticism to take it in without feeling that the criticism was directed at them instead of their idea. Ultimately, we try to be inclusive by letting our differences create more ideas instead of stopping us from working together. Inclusivity was also considered through the use of group chats. This allows communication to all members of the group at all times regardless of location.  
2. Reflection on your team experiences.   
a. What went well?

The team so far has been doing very well in terms of organisation and being responsible for our own work. During team meetings, members are engaged and we can get on quickly with activities since we come prepared. Although members have been busy as the semester progressed, our team chat is still activa and conveys the necessary information across. The team so far has been very good at setting up early deadlines and keeping to them. This allows us to manage this course in relation to other courses well since we can make sure things get done in periods of time when other courses are not as busy for the group.  
b. What strategy was applied?

Some strategies that we applied to organise ourselves is a gantt chart for takes managing. In addition to organisational tools, we like to take turns speaking in a group, and also split up when brainstorming or doing our own research. Another strategy that we have used to get work done is by holding an “office hours” style zoom call where members can drop in and out as they please. This helps with coordination a lot as there are rarely times when all group members are free.  
c. How were the community responses utilized?

Although we have not had the luxury of direct contact with the stakeholder, we were provided enough information through text and videos to start doing our own research. Learning about the community helped in our diverging of ideas, as we could empathise with why the stakeholders emphasise cost as one of their values. Although we have not received feedback directly from the stakeholders yet, there has been a lot of research done into their community and values in our design proposal.  
  
3. Lessons learned from your project team experiences   
a. What knowledge was gained?

Some of the things that I learned from working as a group is the importance of planning and the usefulness of seeking help from outside sources like TAs. More detail is provided in the answers below.  
b. What did you learn from your positive experiences (e.g., success, desired   
outcomes)?

Since we were able to work so efficiently due to our forward planning, we learned about the importance of planning. We also learned about the importance of specialisation and making sure that we are working off everyone’s strengths. This was especially important in the widget labs, since we each had things we were good at. From the positive experiences we learned as a group of the importance of communication.

c. What did you learn from your negative experiences (e.g., failure, undesired   
outcomes)?

Some of the troubles we faced was in understanding the opportunity and frustration at not being able to contact the stakeholder. Next time, some of the confusion could have been averted if we were more vocal with seeking help from TAs. They are a great resource to be utilized 😊 From some of the negative experiences, we learned to temper our expectations of the group and make sure that not too much work was being set.

d. What changes will be applied (start, avoid or stop)?

From now on, we will use the TAs when we encounter trouble. Another change we will make to our workflow is to meet regularly to discuss upcoming projects. This would greatly reduce stress and confusion when working closer to the deadline.