

Leadership is something I strive to improve in every day of my life. I try to become a better individual both technically and socially in the way that I interact with other members of my group. At times, I see areas where I am weak and do my best to improve upon them. I am open to criticism and feedback from others even if it is not necessarily what I want to hear. As I move on to graduate school, I hope that I can carry these leadership skills moving forward. I hope that I can influence a culture of teamwork and honest communication amongst all members of a group, just as Google strives for now. I worry that I might be too shy to lead but I know this something I can correct with confidence and a willingness to improve. I have been on project teams in which the management is sloppy and people do not have an equal say in what the next steps should be. I have had experiences in which members do absolutely no work and in some cases are fired after no progress is witnessed. I see people step over one another and fail to communicate on even the most basic levels. These things make me realize what a good team should not be. I believe that being able to identify red flags is crucial in continuity and overall project success. Just as Sagakuchi found it necessary to address the lack of vision in his team, I find it important to diffuse stressful scenarios. While I might not talk about my health or person life, I am sure I can find ways to connect with members of my group on a personal level.

The topic of inflating or deflating grades is one that annoys me to be honest. I never had a weighted high school GPA and I am pretty sure there was some correlation to that and my ability to get recognized by schools. GPA Inflation is the first major culprit of ruining education and it starts at the high school level. In what world should a GPA scale go up to a 7.0 where the standard is 4.0? I am not talking about schools in other countries that grade on various scales; I am talking about American high schools that inflate grades so much that you can achieve a 7.0 and to the admissions office they are pretty much comparing this to a 4.0. Yes, getting into top tier schools should be competitive and they should only take the best of the best. However, getting the same grades in different high schools can lead to one student getting a 3.8 and the other student getting a 5.8. Clearly, one looks better to college admission offices. I believe that Northeastern does a great job welcoming a fostering environment but this honestly feels like I am being babied relative to my high school. My lowest GPA at this school was still higher than my cumulative GPA in high school. The inflation in this school is not good and in my opinion it devalues what it means to be an "A" student. Graduate schools basically expect you to pass thresholds that are much easier to achieve than they used to be. Encourage a sense of belongingness and cooperation, but do so knowing that not curving grades leads to anxiety at the end of the day.