

Patrick Gavazzi

ENT Leadership

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Reflection 10

I love talking to people. Meeting new people and forming bonds with them is always the highlight of an experience for me. It was very fitting then that my top two conflict management styles were **Collaborating** and **Accommodating**. Both of these styles value relationships over or just as much as one's own goals, and I think I tend to do that too. I know that I will not always have the right idea (no matter how much I think I think I'm right), so if someone puts up a big fight against me I tend to find ways to meet them halfway or compromise. My lowest score, on the contrary, was competition. While compromising is good, I often do it to a fault, and even if I am very sure of my plan or idea I will sometimes give it up to make people happy. I want to improve my balance of compromising vs fighting for my solution.

Recently, I have been regretfully house-hunting ever since my current landlord refused to let us re-sign our lease for the next school year. My group and I have been searching high and low for houses, going on tours, filling out applications, and getting our dreams crushed by speedy sophomores who can sign guarantor forms faster than us. This past week, we were fortunate enough to find two houses that we liked, let's call them house A and house B. My house loved house A, it had large rooms, a big backyard, and was an 8-minute walk from Davis square. On the contrary, house B is nice but it is not as big, does not have as many updated appliances, and is \$100 more per month per person. Naturally, my group wanted to sign the lease for house A, but the

landlord was being wishy-washy and said we had to wait a week to see if the house was even available. So we were left with the dilemma: do we sign for House B now or change it and wait to see if House A becomes available?

Immediately people started to pick sides, trying to convince each other that their plan for which house to pick was right. I wanted to wait for House A, I thought that if we stuck it out things would work our way. But my other group members were more worried that if we waited too long, we would lose both of them. To make matters worse, we were communicating solely over text which led to misinterpreted tones and hurt feelings all around. So after a couple of days of frantic texting, I decided to sit down one night and hash out everyone's feelings. And while I tried hard to convince everyone that we should wait for house A, eventually I realized that their fear of losing both was greater than my need for a slightly nicer house. So I compromised, and this week decided to sign for house B. I even helped talk some of my other friends (who wanted to wait for house A) into signing.

I was not competing at all during this housing process, I decided to work and find a solution with everyone to maintain our friendships. I am also proud that I decided to have us talk it out in person instead of deciding to give up and go on without them. Everyone had a chance to hear each other out, and ultimately we felt more secure in our decision for doing so. Talking things out and maintaining friendships is always more important to me than getting my top choice.