Group Reflective Essay: Charity Cinema Event

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# **Reflection**

When reflecting on the project, we as a group concluded that this project was more than useful in developing our learning and professional skills. The team believes our learning objectives were reasonably well met. We realised our communication could have been better. Our communication when it came to the booking of the room was less than up to standard and we were not sure what was happening with the room until a day or two before. However, this was valuable experience to us. We learned a lot from these mistakes. Our communication skills improved from this mistake. We will never make the same mistakes again. As well as communication skills we enhanced our organisational skills and writing skills. We also learned more about working as a team and how to deal with certain types of people and problems that were thrown at us. Overall, we believe our movie night was a success in terms of evolving these essential skills.

We set out to meet the objectives of improving all these soft skills and we feel we met those objectives through both carrying out a successful project, but also from making mistakes and learning from them.

# **Roles and Contributions**

Before even starting to get to work we had to decide who was going to do what to make sure this project went as smoothly as possible. We decided that Saul Burgess would be the leader of the group who then gave us out our roles. Adam was given the task of writing up the proposal, and on the day of the film, was tasked with redirecting people from the incorrect room to the new room. Saul Hennessy was tasked with bringing in the XBOX and the movie (‘Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse’) that was to be viewed and oversaw communications. Shahjhan had the job of documentation and writing up the minutes for our meetings. Saul Burgess was the leader and made sure everything was running smoothly. Michael and Alan worked on the advertisement of the film. They designed the posters that were hung up around the college and Alan was also in charge of printing the tickets and the posters. Michael also sourced some popcorn for the event that we used to sell to raise even more money for Wells for Zoe.

The selling of tickets was done by Adam, and the two Saul’s. We set up a stand in the main lobby of the Aungier Street building to sell as many tickets as possible.

For the essay we all sat down and talked about the different points for each section of the essay. We then made sure we were all on the same page as to what everyone had done up until that point and then we each got a different section of the essay to write. This made sure what we wrote was accurate and that it was completed in an efficient way.

# **What We Learned About Groupwork & Planning**

Working together as a group taught us a lot of lessons about groupwork and planning and then dealing with obstacles that may have come up that didn’t go according to plan. From this group event, we learned that some people will have different ways of doing different things. You need to expect that some people will be very stubborn when it comes to an idea they have that they want to be put into place, but others do not. Sometimes there will be a clash between egos and that calmly talking it out is the best way to deal with this situation. There will always be difficult people within a group, but you just need to get on with it and try work around through that. This can be also applied to if you’re working within the computing industry. If someone wants to code a certain way and will not budge on the subject, then you need to talk and work out an alternative that would satisfy both parties while also getting the work done as proficiently as possible.

We also learned that having a precise, detailed, thorough plan is essential for success. Only having a bare bones plan with little to no detail is not enough. It causes complications down the line as members of the group were confused as to what they were supposed to be doing. Better planning would have helped with the confusion. In the computing workplace, planning is a vital part of getting work done properly and on time. For example, if you’re working on a large piece of software, planning needs to be executed very precisely. A reasonable deadline will be needed to make sure people have enough time to complete the tasks they are given. Organising and planning who does what is essential. Sitting down to discuss everyone’s strengths and weakness helps decide who should do what within the project, whether it be writing a brand-new piece of software or fixing a bug within a program, ensures that all is completed to a high standard.

# **Changes for a Repeat of the Project**

All in all, we felt the project was a success, however, there definitely were some obstacles we could have handled with greater care and diligence. If we were to repeat the whole project again, I think we would have tried to be a lot more efficient. Reflecting on what we’d done, we left a lot of things to the last minute such as the sale of the tickets which was done on the day of the event. When repeating the event, we would have sold the tickets a week in advance while also having more than one opportunity to buy these tickets. This way we would have probably sold a lot more tickets and we would’ve planned and organised the event more accordingly with the numbers we would have had.

We also concluded that our communication should have been better. We had only used WhatsApp as a means of sharing files and communication. If repeating the project, we would have used a more sophisticated program to make sure everyone was on the same wavelength and everything was done at a reasonable pace. Using just WhatsApp, in hindsight, was not good enough as it was easy to lose files and information. It ended up causing a lot of stress and at times it became slightly heated between certain members within the group. A management and/or organising program would have alleviated a lot of unnecessary stress in the group by allowing information to be more easily shared and accessible.

**Improvement Suggestions**

Instead of using just WhatsApp and nothing else, Trello would have been a great help in organising what needed to be done. With WhatsApp it was difficult to figure out what had to be done as the messages were buried. With Trello everything would have been a lot clearer. It would have been a lot clearer as to who was doing what and when it was to be done by. All the information would have been easier to find and edit by everyone instead of having to scroll through hundreds of messages in a group chat. While WhatsApp was helpful for quick queries and setting up meetings, it was not helpful when it came to organise the event itself and distribute files amongst one another.

Better advertising is another aspect we could have improved upon. We only had a limited number of posters to send around so we could have had more to get the most coverage as possible. The information, on the poster, was incorrect too so having the correct time and venue on it would have greatly improved the outcome of the event, even though in our opinion the event still went well. We should have also utilised better forms of advertising too. We only used the posters and word of mouth as a means of advertisement. Redoing the project, social media and class emails would have spread the word of our event to a larger audience and possibly would have increased our already impressive in-take.

**Short Reflection on Civic Engagement**

Civic Engagement is extremely important in society today. It is essential in society today to make sure the quality of life is developed within communities. Reflecting on what we have done to help Wells for Zoe is astonishing. What we’ve managed to do is change people’s lives forever, providing clean drinking water to places without the necessary infrastructure, building schools and planting trees. Just from such a small and simple charity event we have managed to help communities thrive and develop. To us, civil engagement is integral to helping people and making sure they live fulfilling lives. And as they are developing their lives, we are also. It benefits us too.