

Responsible: Valentin Borgeaud

Data collection: Video record a brainstorming meeting of the group (e.g. use your phone).

Analysis: Watch the video taking note of the following things:

1. Did one team member facilitate the brainstorming or was a responsibility shared by the group?

All team members contributed to the brainstorming and were heard. It was more a responsibility shared by the group as every contributed to let others express their ideas and views. The exchange of ideas was fluid and allowed us to get a better view on how to approach the problem. There were quite a few disagreements on how to proceed. The main approach was to review topics from the first semester and to figure out how to use them for our project. Having no clue of the data we would be getting, the procedure was tough, especially since we couldn't estimate the spectrum of features available to us for our study.

2. What is the mood of the group (remembering that an energetic mood is normally associated with more creative brainstorming)? Did any team members encourage the group to be more/ less energetic?

The meeting which was analyzed took place at the beginning of the semester and was one of the first. At that time, we didn't really know on what data we were going to work on and we just learned that the MOOC we had to study had changed. We already brainstormed about the previous original MOOC and we therefore were a little bit upset because we therefore lost time on something not really useful... Also, no team members in the group liked the idea of using a top-down approach to analyze the data and the team was therefore a little bit unhappy about that.

After letting the bad energy go away, we were fast in coming up with ideas for the research tasks that we wanted to cover. However, some team members were also searching for literature at the same time the brainstorming was taking place and thus this meeting isn't the most energetic one we had during the semester.

3. Did any team members critique or evaluate suggestions during the session (noting that brainstorming is normally more creative when people do not evaluate suggestions during the brainstorming session)?

Pretty much all team members gave their opinion on the different suggestions and different ideas shared. The ideas were not criticized but they were discussed to see what could be done or not, what were the advantages and disadvantages of the methods proposed. However, as we still didn't have much information about the data at the time, a lot of ideas were just speculations and this is probably why a lot of discussion took place at this moment to debate on the potential feasibility or biases of these ideas.

4. Did team members encourage or give positive feedback to each other during the session?

There were multiple times where the team diverged a bit from the brainstorming session and often one team member tried to make people focus again by encouraging the team to finish what we have to do during those floating moment.

Also, constructive feedback was always given when people were sharing their ideas and everybody discussed them.

Reflection: Based upon your analysis of the video, how would you propose that you could improve brainstorming sessions in the future?

We could probably be a bit more organized when coming up with ideas. For this purpose, we could start a brainstorming session by allocating some time to each of us coming up with ideas independently and then discuss them and adjust them together. We could also impose the team members to think about ideas before coming to the meetings.

Also, we could assign someone for each brainstorming session to take notes of what is discussed, so that we can better keep track of the ideas and not repeat things over and over.

A member of the group should also be designated as a brainstorm-master and be responsible of giving the floor to each member when needed. This person shall also insure that the conversation does not deviate too much from the topic of the current brainstorming session.

Group reflection: Share your report with the group. Make a note of the different participant's responses to the report. Does the group propose to change how they do brainstorming in the future?

All the members agreed that the suggestions presented previously about improving the brainstorming session should be put in practice. Particularly, all team members would like to try to focus more our attention during the meetings and deviate less from the working discussions. Everybody agreed as well that taking notes to avoid repeating things and have a mark of the decision making is really important.