

EMMANUELLA SERWAA APLERKU

67542023

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAPSTONE

IDEA STAGE

MID-SEMESTER INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION PAPER

Piece Makers is an amazing group of five students with a combination of Business Administration and Management Information Systems backgrounds. The problem we are tackling is the improper management of textile excesses that become waste. We have analyzed this problem's adverse effects on the environment through research. Our solution seeks to reduce textile waste by repurposing fabric excesses into functional household items.

My team has a very strong bond. We enjoy one another's company so much that there are times we meet not only because of capstone tasks. We developed this bond by usually trying to have relatable conversations across different non-academic topics. We have created a safe space where we are all able to share things going on in our lives knowing that we all get to learn life lessons from our experiences and feel better at the end of the day. This enables us to look forward to academic meetings on our venture. It never feels like a headache to meet.

Piece Makers are always welcome to constructive criticism. Our ability to accept feedback especially the negative ones, has helped our progress tremendously. We do not view them from the perspective of incompetence on our path, but rather a steppingstone for improvement. The criticisms enable us to assess our venture and fill any gaps identified from a bird's eye view.

We respect every opinion shared among us even when we may not necessarily agree with them. We all endeavor to avoid belittling ideas in order to make everyone comfortable and confident in themselves. When we do this, we tend to have a large pool of ideas to work with. Even if they do not correlate with a current agenda, these ideas appear important in other aspects later.

One of our main weaknesses is poor time-consciousness. There have been a few times where we commence meetings later than the set time. This causes us to end meetings late, thereby eating into the next day. We need to become each other's keeper. Therefore, I can help resolve this situation by calling teammates when the time is approaching. There is a fine for lateness in our team charter that we have all been very lenient with. At this point, it is imperative that we begin to enforce this rule as a team to curb this canker.

Sometimes, some of the team members try to act as free riders. There are instances where some people define abilities and are not willing to go the extra mile. They have the notion that a particular person is good at something, so they do not need to give it a try. They would rather be in their comfort zone. In so doing, they give flimsy excuses to save themselves. This attitude causes others to build subtle and internal resentment towards them. When it happens repeatedly, the chances of a nonchalant attitude in response to this behavior becomes very high. This is not healthy for team building. If we become sterner in our peer reviews, there would a positive change.

Over-familiarity among us makes it difficult to address problems. Since we have built strong bonds over time, there are sometimes struggles to call people out when they do something

inappropriate. No one wants to appear as the bad, rude, or difficult person. So, we are not always able to say things as they are. To solve this, I would always use the team charter as a basis for fair judgement.

Having a team charter has definitely been one of the best things that we have done. This set of rules or laws has served as a guiding principle for us all with regards to work ethics. According to our team charter, we ought to delegate some numbers of hours to working on our venture. As such, we meet every Thursday from 8:00pm to 11:00pm in person to complete various tasks. Having a specific meeting day aside from office hours, class time and other spontaneous meetings makes us mentally prepared. We know that we have designated three hours of our time each Thursday, so we prepare ahead of time and get other commitments sorted so there are no clashes. Within this three-hour period, there is a rule that states that no use of phones allowed until it is break time. Initially, some of us did not agree to this rule, but it turned out to be very essential. We are able to fully focus on the work to be done without any divided attention. One key modification I would love that my team adds to the charter is best team member of the week. This addition will push everyone to do their very best to be recognized. In effect, there would be a higher output generally.

Walking down this path has been a means of self-discovery. There are a couple of things I have learnt about myself. I am a reliable person. Anytime a task or role is assigned to me, I execute it diligently, thus building trust between me and my teammates. Also, I am a good orator. I am able to relay information clearly to my teammates, colleagues and facilitators. I usually pitch for my team and speak during office hours candidly. I have realized that I have a great sense of humor. My words are usually followed by giggles and laughter. To a large extent, I believe this characteristic helps me to break any tensions in the team when things get heated. I bring the calm after the storm which makes it easier for us to continue working harmoniously while enjoying each other's company.

I would describe my experience working with my team so far as a fun and optimistic journey. Activities such as stakeholder engagement and pitch preparations have been very interesting. We have remained positive in all our dealings, keeping the "can-do" spirit. In the coming weeks, I would want to work with a resilient team. From the beginning of the semester, it has been evident to us as a team that entrepreneurship can be very demanding at times. At certain points, everything tends to seem bleak. Resilience is the only force that can keep pushing us through the stormy seasons. By this, we can get to the finish line of excellence. Finally, I hope that the team stands strong as a committed family. I trust that we would build a higher level of commitment to upcoming tasks for the ultimate success of our venture.