**Why is this week’s topic important for teamwork?**

Influence is important for teamwork because you need to be a valuable asset to your team. If you are a positive influence to your team, you are more likely to be more included and have a stronger say. (This influence is what your managers will rely on when they give you a pay raise or fire you). The team operates smoothly when all members are good influences, and the final product is well-crafted.

**How do you plan on contributing to the team, besides completing your tasks?**

Because I have experience in the field, I am a valuable asset to my team. I can tell which ideas are good and which are bad, and *why*. This will not only be important for resolving the problem at hand, but it will also help guide my team members to be more skilled decision makers.

**How does your experience relate to other experiences you have had?**

In countless discussions throughout my career, I have commonly influenced the final product significantly. This is because over the years, my influence has grown in the department and with my boss. My output is of high quality and I perform reliably, and my time with the team has proven this to them. Every time I am participating in a team meeting, I am almost always one of the first to pitch an idea.

**If you were to write your experience as a STAR story, how would you phrase it?**

Once during high school, just as I had entered into a two-week fall break, my boss notified me of an urgent and important task. We were planning on accepting a new client, but they needed additions to be made to our software in order to accommodate their needs. These additions were very large and we had an extremely thin deadline – two weeks, conveniently. The task was almost impossible for just the two of us because of how the size of the scope, but we were the only developers with the necessary expertise to solve it. We put our heads together and split the project into two main tasks – his and mine. We then solved how they would cooperate with each other and began developing. The takeaway from this is that my tasks and influence were altering how my boss would be managing his tasks, and vise versa. Since we were both reliable, we synergized accordingly and quickly. In the end, we (phenomenally) met the deadline and the clients were ecstatic with the final product.

**If this was a religion class, how would you relate this week’s topic to the gospel?**

God should be your biggest influence to you. In your daily life, you should be always reflective and ask yourself, “How can I be more like God?”. It is important to have Him as your influence because Godliness (which is synonymous with being Christ-like) is goodness, and goodness is… well, good! By becoming more Godlike, you will have an increasingly positive influence on the world without even focusing on it, and you will become the “salt of the Earth”.

**Score: 100/100**

I chose 5 20-point assignments and answered them thoughtfully, deeply, and completely.