One of the major differences between high school and university is that you will have to do a lot of exercises and assignments in groups. Doing something in group means that you will have to work with your classmates, discuss with them and decide together what is the best to put in your assignments. Most of university assignments are graded. Therefore, it is very important for you and your teammates to have a good working-in-group skill, which means that you will need to know how to be a good member as well as a good leader of a group.

How to become a good team member? First of all, a good member is not the one that is very quiet and agree with most of the ideas that need to be discussed. That kind of member will drive the team’s work to the edge. A good member need to show the group their voice, their opinions. Secondly, a good team member needs to be responsible. The leader give you a task and you can’t ignore it again and again with your personal reasons. Once you participate in a group work, you have to contribute something. You can’t just sit there, do not do anything and get good marks like others! Moreover, being a good member also means that you have to respect other members of the team. Everyone in the team must be treated equally. Everyone’s voice are considered equally. In a group, there can’t be a thought that someone’s opinion is not important or we just need to listen to the leader. The purpose of teamwork at university is to give everyone a same opportunity to voice, to criticize or to compliment ideas.

Above is some of my opinions about how to be a good team member in working in group. But you can’t always be a team member if you want to be promoted. You sometimes will have to be a leader too. How to be a good team leader? A leader is the determining factor in whether or not the team works successfully and gets good marks. A good leader, first of all, needs to know at least the strength of every team members. Once you know your teammates’ strength, you can divide the work into pieces and assign them to the proper team member in order to accomplish it well. Secondly, a good leader needs to know how to resolve conflicts in the group. Conflict in working in group is unavoidable. The group leader have to know what solution is the best one to resolve conflicts within their group. Moreover, a leader needs to be strict enough to give deadlines and lead the team to the end so that everyone can finish their work sufficiently.

I, luckily, had some chances to be a leader at high school. But until now, when I study at my university that I know that in the past I led my team in the wrong way. I always want to finish assignments with the best way. So I often did them on myself. My team members barely didn’t do anything. As a result, most of the time, my team didn’t know the knowledge required and I, or my teacher, need to tell them again. But now, thanks to some subjects at university, I know how to manage a group and how to be a good leader.

Overall, these characteristics of a good member or a good leader are not easy to acquire. Everything takes a process to form and master. Maybe, today you are not a good member, but if you try, you can become better day by day.