**My Presentation**

I’m going to do an in-depth explanation of the company I worked at over the Summer. I did my internship at Mercent Corp., a company that is the middle-man in online sales. Any business that wants to sell their products on multiple online stores will find going through Mercent to be a quicker and faster Endeavour than building online interfaces for each store. Mercent also provides analytics and online tracking, with makes its services that much more valuable.

My focus will be on Mercent’s engineering teams and their workflow and planning. I am going to talk about monthly meetings, sprint planning meetings, and the release cycle.

My reference is myself, as I was treated like a Junior Software Development Intern. I had the same responsibilities as all the other engineers but with a 4-month project, not many smaller projects. I participated in all meetings and all projects, and had multiple smaller projects to do besides the extended project.

**The Course Evaluation Part**

**A.** I am very pleased with this course. When I put it into my schedule, I just needed 3 credits, and this course sounded interesting. I was not disappointed. Of all my courses this semester, and probably all of my college career, this is my favorite course. While the workload is actually quite large, it wasn’t difficult at all. I am very happy with the size of the class. I know, or can at least identify a few things about fellow students, just by seeing their face. I’ve made friends with some people from class, and we play video games together.

Another thing I liked was the conversations. Along with the conversation-style presentation that you do, we got together in small groups almost every class, and that made class interesting as we were able to talk about our project along with other things. I normally don’t have time to talk to classmates, and this time made being in class more fun.

I’m quite happy with all the things I learned in class. While I won’t retain the majority of it, I am pleased with what I do retain. Obviously, I couldn’t name any of the steps involving group formation, but I know that the process includes a disagreement phase.

Suggestions:

I very much liked the projects, and the topics we worked with. I liked my group members and I think we worked well together. My suggestion for the group projects is to add a few shorted projects in, maybe a total of 6, and to switch up the groups. While I liked having my team for 2 projects at a time, I also would have liked meeting, talking, and working with other classmates. I don’t know how this would be done and how it would fit into the schedule.

Another suggestion I have regards the PPQs. While they were nice, there were quite a lot. They were easy, and I just had to put an hour or two into them, but there were a lot of them to do. I can’t pin-point the feeling, but I think there were so duplicate tasks among the PPQs and the smaller presentations. I think there was a PPQ regarding leadership, and a presentation we had to do regarding the same topic. I think the same thing occurred regarding small groups.

One more thing: I thought the course would much less psychology, more about planning and tasks and such. I was hoping to learn more about how engineering teams work together, and the planning that goes into engineering projects, but I can’t say I’m disappointed because I liked the class.

To sum it up: I loved the course, the workload was a little more than I’d like, and I would have liked to do more presentations.

**B.** An A. I put the effort forward and did the work.

**C. Part 1.**

Put the work in, and put effort into your work. That sums up pretty much anything an engineering person should live by. You don’t have to be liked by everyone. You are in a logical, analytical field. Nobody expects you to be great with everybody, but you should at least try. Here’s my “10 Things You Should Do To Succeed” .

1. That first sentence: “Put the work in, and put effort into your work”. This means finishing a task on time, and making sure it is quality work.

2. “Know that there is somebody out there smarter than you”. This doesn’t mean you’re an idiot. It just means you can’t always be right. As an engineer, you should realize that some people can be wrong, and that person may turn out to be you. Because you’re an engineer, you’ll figure out why you were wrong, and grow because of it.

3. “Attack the problem, not the person”. As an engineer, this should be incredibly easy to do. Your criticism will be seen as productive, and the other engineer who made the mistake won’t take offense, they’ll think about #2 and learn from their errors.

4. “Your team is not perfect”. You will have problems; you are only human. You can figure them out, and work around your team’s limitations.

5. “Look past another’s errors”. Somewhere down the road you’ll have to work with someone who caused you harm or problems. There’s no way around it. Stop holding that grudge and get the project done properly.

6. “Look for the gap”. To quote Ayrton Senna: “And if you no longer go for a gap that exists, you are no longer a racing driver…”. This doesn’t apply solely to racing. If you see a problem, you solve it. No matter how small, it’s your problem to solve. If it’s not your problem, figure out a way to make it yours because those other people won’t fix it. This also goes for the unmet need that nobody talks about, but it’s there.

7. “Confidence is all”. You can be a bumbling idiot, but if you sound like you’re making sense, and you’re confident, people will believe you. It really is that simple. It’ll get you through doors and solve a bunch of your problems.

8. “Know when to back down”. This is the opposite of #7. You have to know when to stop forcing your solution. When the boss tells you to stop and get back in line, that’s when you’ve gone too far. Tip-toe the line, but don’t leap over it.

9. “Listen”. This is self-explanatory. Listen and respond to what they said, not what you think they may have said.

10. “Don’t be serious”. This translates to: always be fun. Being serious hinders creativity and teamwork. Be playful, and you’ll enjoy your team, your friends, and your coworkers more. As a bonus, they’ll enjoy you too.

**C. Part 2.**

Member 1:

Myself, the Group coordinator

A. I am a very task-oriented person. I know much about many things and have wild and crazy ideas which hopefully inspire creativity.

B. I think I’m a funny person, and I’m good with people. I don’t hold grudges, and I realize people will be people, and the task is our problem, not the people. I’m good at managing people and working in a team.

C. The Group Coordinator

D. I am very task-oriented. I depend on people to do their work, and I push them to do their best. People who are not capable of handling pressure are no good around me, and normally don’t like my behavior or attitude.

Member 2:

Chris D’Agostino, the Lead Report Writer

A. I haven’t worked with Chris in a group setting yet, but I have talked to him and I play video games with him. I like him very much, and his personality the type I’d like in my group. He is funny, and likes messing around, but he gets his work done and has a clear vision of the goals.

B. Because Chris is funny and good with people, he would fit in perfectly with my ideal team.

C. The Lead Report Writer.

D. Chris, being the funny playful person that he is, doesn’t always look like he’s focused and accomplishing his tasks. As the group coordinator, it’s my job to make sure people do their jobs and it would be difficult to make sure he’s always doing his job, but knowing him, he will get it done. He’ll just make me worry about it a little.

Member 3:

Ben Archer, a presenter

A. As with Chris, I haven’t worked with Ben in a group, but I sit next to him every day, and I like him. He does his work, and also likes to play around. He’s focused and driven when he needs to be and funny and playful the rest of the time. That’s exactly what I look for in people.

B. As with Chris, Ben is funny and good with people.

C. A Presenter.

D. Ben has similar traits as Chris, but is a little more focused. He gives more of a feeling of goal-orientation. I’m having trouble finding a weakness to talk about. I’ve only talked with him and we’re friends, but I haven’t worked in a group with him. Everything that I know about him and have heard about him tells me he is the perfect group member for my team, that’s why I picked him.

Member 4:

Brenna George, a presenter

A. Brenna is incredibly goal-oriented. She likes having fun, but the goal is the goal, and fun won’t get in the way of solving the problem properly.

B. Brenna is a people-person. She is kind and considerate. She fits in with people quite well.

C. A Presenter.

D. Brenna has a different, slightly controversial viewpoint. She brings a totally different view to the table. Thusly, people may not like working with her all the time and my think she’s a little weird or annoying, but because people like her and she’s nice, people won’t get upset.

Member 5:

Greg Foresi, a presenter

A. Greg is confident, outspoken, and task-oriented. He’s a good person, and he’ll put in the time and effort to get a job done right. He’s also very good at presenting, and really interesting.

B. Greg is good with people. While he’s outspoken about his opinions just like Brenna, he is just as good with people. He’s also nice to them. People, including me, like him.

C. A Presenter.

D. Greg is overconfident at times, and he can be stubborn. It’s pretty simple to manage him because he’s nice and will understand a logical, valid argument.

I wanted to explain why some of my responses are a little short. I’ve never worked with anybody on my list in a group. I am, however, friends with all of them and consider them great people to work with. I am confident we would work well together in a group.

As you can see, my group is focused on fun and task-orientation. My team members focus on our task and get our work done, all while enjoying ourselves. We don’t plan on being serious because that is counter to creativity and productivity. We’re logical, calculating people with different views on pretty much anything. That’s what would make us so good as a team.