

Week 1

Tasks Undertaken

The primary objective in the first tutorial was to form our teams. Each of us was assigned a label: leader, researcher, or coder/tester based on our self-evaluated strengths within a team setting. We were then instructed to find team members with complementary roles, which led me to meet the team I am now working with. Fortunately, I found them to be dependable and cooperative. Following team formation, we participated in a challenging game where one person described a picture that he has seen using only shapes, and the rest of us had to draw it solely based on the description. I have had the honour to be the person who describes the shape, and my teammates duly drew as I described. Although it was a tough challenge, we managed to produce a drawing that was coherent and closely matched the original picture.

Critical Reflections

The initial team formation exercise was a valuable experience, as it highlighted the importance of diverse roles within a team. I appreciated the process of finding teammates who could balance each other's strengths and weaknesses. The drawing game, though challenging, taught us the importance of clear communication and listening skills. It also showed us that even with limited information, teamwork can lead to satisfactory outcomes. This experience reinforced the need to establish effective communication strategies early on in any collaborative effort.

Assigned Roles/Tasks

During this initial phase, I tried to identify and align with members who complemented my skills. In the drawing game, I took on the role of an interpreter of the drawing and instructed my teammates to draw a drawing of shapes that closely matched the described picture.

Accomplishments

We successfully formed a balanced and dependable team, which set a solid foundation for our future work. Additionally, our team's ability to produce a coherent drawing in the game demonstrated our potential to work together effectively under challenging conditions.

Week 2

Tasks Undertaken

In the tutorial, we were tasked with coming up with a product idea and promoting it, but there was a catch, one person in the group was designated to disrupt our efforts, and we had to identify and vote for the disruptor at the end of the game. Our group decided on a weather application designed to alert users about potential natural disasters and their locations. I was chosen by the team to present our product, and I confidently faced the challenge, doing my best to sell the concept. Additionally, during the workshop, we were introduced to the weighted scoring model, and I realized that this model would prove to be useful for our team in choosing our project topic.

Critical Reflections

The tutorial was a test of our teamwork, especially since the team is randomly formed and so we did not know each other beforehand and had to quickly collaborate to create and pitch a product. Despite the time constraints, we managed to work together effectively. However, in a surprising turn, someone who had contributed significantly to the discussion was voted as the disruptor because we had suspected him to lead the product creation process towards a bad direction. This experience underscored the importance of clear communication and trust within a team.

Assigned Roles/Tasks

In this exercise, I took on the role of the presenter, responsible for articulating our product idea to the rest of the class. I also played a key role in helping our group navigate the disruptive influence and ensure our product pitch remained coherent and compelling.

Accomplishments

We successfully developed and presented a product idea within a limited timeframe, showcasing our ability to work together under pressure. I was able to present our concept confidently, which contributed to the overall success of our group. The introduction of the weighted scoring model was also a significant takeaway, as it provided a valuable tool for our future decision-making processes.

Week 3

Tasks Undertaken

We were tasked with forming a team to develop a product idea as in Shark Tank in the tutorial. We had to envision the product, its use, its strengths that attracts people to it and various aspects on production and sales strategy. My teammate and I eagerly discussed our ideas, and I was chosen to present our concept to the other teams. My presentation was well-received, with others finding it humorous, and my teammates complimented me on successfully delivering the pitch. On Thursday, my team for the project had held a Zoom session and discussed potential topics, selected our criteria, and assigned weights to each topic based on our criteria. We then combined our weights into a single table, reassessed our evaluations, and confirmed our final topic with everyone. This process allowed us to work together efficiently, coordinating both online and offline meetings.

Critical Reflections

This task emphasized the importance of clear communication and creativity when working within a team. The process of brainstorming and developing a product idea was both challenging and rewarding. Presenting the idea required confidence and the ability to engage the audience, which I was able to do effectively. However, I realized that while humour can be a powerful tool in presentations, it is essential to balance it with clear and informative content to ensure the message is conveyed effectively.

Assigned Roles/Tasks

My primary role was to collaborate with my teammate on developing our product idea and then take on the responsibility of presenting it to the class. My involvement included contributing to the brainstorming process, helping to draft the report, and leading the presentation. In the zoom session, each group member contributed to the discussion and evaluation of topics. My specific role was to help in the reassessment process and ensure that the final topic selection was confirmed with all members. Additionally, I played a key role in organizing the Zoom session and facilitating the discussion.

Accomplishments

We successfully developed a coherent product idea and delivered a presentation that resonated with the audience. My ability to present the concept in an engaging manner was a key achievement, and the positive feedback from my teammates reflected our effective collaboration. More importantly, my team successfully selected and confirmed our project topic after a thorough and collaborative evaluation process. This accomplishment reflects our ability to work together effectively, making use of both online and offline tools to achieve our goals.

Week 4

Tasks Undertaken

On Wednesday my teammates and I gathered in my apartment's study room to write and finalize the report for the case study.

Critical Reflections

Although we held meetings that successfully determined the topic of the project that we plan to undertake, I realized that I could help the team effort by remembering the meeting time because in one instance I had forgotten there is a meeting happening and had to be reminded by my teammates who were extremely helpful. I appreciate the value of teamwork because everyone worked together in one room to write the report for why we have chosen the particular topic.

Assigned Roles/Tasks

I contributed by writing the case study and took on the role of editor. I wrote mostly on the reason for our topic, what we hope to achieve and what factors would restrict us in this endeavour. Other group members completed their respective sections and handled the rest of the writing and filling in the information. We worked well as a team with everyone pulling their weight.

Accomplishments

We successfully submitted the case study and gained a deeper understanding of project selection and management, both theoretically and practically. This experience also provided insight into group dynamics, helping me identify where to delegate and invest time to ensure everyone is aligned.

Week 5

Tasks Undertaken

For this week I participated in a workshop focused on risk management, where we explored historical examples such as the Challenger mission during the Cold War and the New Horizon Oil Spill. The session outlined the importance of evaluating and balancing various risk factors in projects, acknowledging that it is not feasible to address every minor risk. Additionally, we had a library session aimed at enhancing our skills in efficiently searching for project materials during the tutorial. We covered techniques using related terms, phrase searches, and employing Boolean operators along with the introduction of Zotero, a citation software. Lastly, I read the research paper for a specific topic for our project on the new Dropout Attack and concluded the advantages and disadvantages of pursuing this topic.

Critical Reflections

The workshop on risk management made it clear that understanding the magnitude and likelihood of risks is crucial in project management. The examples provided showed the dire consequences of inadequate risk assessment. This made me reflect on how risk management is not just about identifying risks but also about making informed decisions on which risks are worth mitigating. The library session complemented this by equipping us with the tools to gather relevant information efficiently which is vital for making informed decisions and supporting risk assessments.

Assigned Roles/Tasks

For this week, I attended a workshop focused on risk management as well as a tutorial session aimed at enhancing research skills. My role was a participant and listener in both sessions, absorbing the information and techniques presented. I was tasked to read a research paper and evaluate it for my team to have a good grasp on the option of topics that we can pursue and make our decision.

Accomplishments

I gained a deeper understanding of risk management and its practical implications. My ability to search for and identify relevant academic and project-related materials has also improved through the advanced search techniques learned during the tutorial.

Next Week's Tasks/Reflections

In the coming week, I plan to apply the risk management strategies discussed in the workshop to the ongoing project with a focus on identifying and prioritizing risks. This will be useful when our team conducts the meeting with our project supervisor to discuss our specific topic. We plan to discuss briefly the pros and cons of the topics, the availability of resources and materials and how we should proceed if we do choose a certain topic. In the meanwhile I will continue refining my search skills by applying the techniques learned in the library session to gather more targeted resources for my projects.