The following essay provides more information about the program, as well as stories and reflections on how I overcame obstacles during this Unity project.

One of the hardest problems I have ever encountered in my academic career came up during a Unity game development in one course named group project. Our goal was to create a full game, which needed careful preparation, cooperation, and execution. Despite having a well-defined development plan that prioritized online gameplay features from the outset, I was nervous and under pressure to keep up after hearing rumors that other groups were incorporating artificial intelligence, 3D rendering, or cutting-edge hardware into their projects. This choice almost put our project at risk, but I was able to refocus our efforts, show leadership, and guide the team toward success with tenacity, determination, and a decisive team meeting.

Because of the fear of falling behind, I forced the team to add AI features because I thought we needed to be on par with or better than other teams' highly developed skills. But it turned out to be a terrible idea to alter our scope in the middle of development. Our game mechanics clashed with the AI elements, resulting in bugs and glitches. They introduced needless complexity and confusion, rather than improving the gameplay. Even worse, I could sense our team's morale eroding. My incessant fixation on catching up, coupled with stress and lack of sleep, was negatively impacting not only my health but also the cohesiveness of our group.

We were going in the wrong direction, but it was difficult for me to own up to my mistakes. At last, I decided to have an open discussion about the situation with the team during a meeting. I took a deep breath, sat down with my teammates, and admitted that I had made poor choices because I felt pressured to compete. I apologized for straying from our original plan and expressed my frustration. Admitting my mistakes in front of the team felt like a personal setback, so it was a difficult conversation, but it was also necessary to regain trust and set everyone up for success.

This admission opened the door for a pivotal team discussion. What happened next was a crucial conversation. My teammates reassured me during our conversation that we didn't have to outperform other groups to establish our value. We went over our initial objectives and areas

of strength as a team, concentrating on the online gaming experience we wanted to create. We discussed how to maximize the time we had left after I encouraged everyone to speak honestly about their ideas. The change in direction was well received by the team. They were more involved, offering fresh suggestions and improving our strategy after feeling reassured by my candor. This incident not only signaled a change in direction for the project but also demonstrated how crucial trust and communication are to good leadership.

Playing to our strengths, we refocused and regained our sense of purpose. We successfully completed the main gameplay feature and directed our efforts toward differentiating ourselves in other ways. I spearheaded the effort to design unique promotional cards for the game concept that no other team had considered at the time. Our cohesiveness and morale were further enhanced by the matching team uniforms that we designed.

Our efforts started to show results. Other teams rushed to create their own when we revealed the promotional cards before the library display, but none of them could match ours in terms of creativity or coherence. It dawned on me then that we were now the leader. Now, other teams looked up to us as role models, copying our advertising tactics and banner designs. I did not miss the irony that they were having difficulty keeping up with us, just as I had tried and failed to imitate others. It became evident that following other people around is rarely a good way to succeed; instead, true leadership comes from concentrating on your advantages and acting with purpose.

On the day of the library display, we took this mindset a step further. To attract attention, I suggested holding a live lottery with a special first prize: the winners could redeem any drink of their choice, in partnership with the library café. This was a popular idea. The four winners celebrated with joy. We created a unique project in that it had such an interesting and imaginative ending party. It was incredibly satisfying to see the joy on their faces because it confirmed that we had made the right choice in choosing to forge our own route rather than follow others.

I learned so much from this project: grit and perseverance are more than just working harder; they also call for the guts to own up to mistakes, refocus objectives, and have faith in your team's abilities. It was difficult for me to call the team meeting and honestly address my prior mistakes, but doing so gave us direction and clarity for the future. Ultimately, we succeeded in finishing the game and ended up serving as an inspiration to others.

This experience taught me that following trends or demonstrating your worth by comparison is not the path to success. Rather, it's about concentrating on your strengths and having the fortitude to overcome obstacles, especially in situations where the way forward is not obvious. Authenticity, focus, and the capacity to motivate others via example are the cornerstones of good leadership, and I will carry these lessons with me as I take on new challenges in my academic career and beyond.