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CS 3110: Problematic Team Members (Reflection)

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After reading this essay, I realized that I have had all 3 Jack, Mary, and Henry on my teams before. Currently in my CS 4740 class, there is a Jack in my group who literally corresponds to what I have read up on this essay. Jack doesn't work with anything, remains quiet, is always "busy", and contributes nothing to the team. Thus, we have actually recently disbanded as a group after giving "Jack" two projects to make up for the lack of commitment and I have joined another group, where hopefully, things will work out fine.

Most of the time, I believe I'm Mary and really seldom Henry. This is because I like working with a tight schedule and everything is planned and has to be done on time. Being on top of my stuff is really key to doing well in Cornell as I wouldn't like to drown in coursework and being left behind. Sometimes, though, after a tiring week of 3+ prelims, I would slack off a bit and be a couch potato. Sometimes this helps me relax, but I do feel bad making others do a project writeup without much contribution, even if they knew that I have been an active teammate for the past few projects.

I like the idea that we should always talk inside the group to establish rules and expectations. I also think that I might've made a mistake by choosing to work with some close friends for the CS 3110 final project. However, knowing them well, I believe we will work well together even if some articles will write about how teammates work better if they don't know each other. I also learnt that we should always be upfront when someone hasn't met the expectations of the group and talk among the group if a person is troublesome, if not, a professor or TA. This is the first time that I have heard of the term hitchhiker being used in the setting of

project and teams and I really like the use of it. I really think that this essay gives me a really good heads up on what is to come in life and what I should do if I do end up encountering any form of these people. Hopefully, my current final project team will be fine and work really well together and make the project that we all envisioned to produce as one unified group.