

Reflection on Team Work so far

Before entering this university I didn't have proper teamwork at high school and I didn't know what is a good team and how the work goes in a team. In school, I mostly worked on individual assignments, and group projects were rare. However, now at my university, we have four periods per each study year and we are divided into different groups of six or seven people every period and we have to work on different projects with new people. This was a new experience for me, and I wasn't entirely prepared for it. Despite all the doubts I was willing to start working in teams and gain new knowledge because in teams you can learn more effectively and efficiently than on your own.

Now I started learning how to listen to others, express my opinions, divide work equally, and make contributions to the teamwork. I can say that for now, all projects were quite successful—roles were distributed fairly, ideas were shared openly, and we reached our goals as a team. I appreciate working in groups where everyone is engaged and organized, I feel comfortable and more willing to contribute as well.

However, not everything went smoothly all the time. Communication was sometimes challenging—some teammates didn't respect the deadlines, and as a result, they struggled with staying on track and because of that, our team progress was also slow at times. Also, sometimes I hesitated to take initiative, fearing I might make a mistake or not manage to turn into reality my ideas. Now I'm more open to trying to do something which I have never done before and ask for help my classmates if it is needed.

In period 3, I decided to try to be a project leader and I think I did a really good job. However, I might not always be put in teams to work with hard-working and motivated people and some problems with my previous team members gave me some valuable experience. Also, I usually learn more when I face some challenges or make mistakes. While being a project leader, I was doing my best and I was putting a lot of effort into creating a group which will succeed in our project. Although during those 9 weeks, we had a lot of troubles now when I see the results of all that hard work I can say that it was worth it.

I think I was struggling a lot during this half of the year because of a lack of prior experience. I wasn't used to expressing my thoughts in a group setting, and I didn't want to appear offensive or incorrect. During periods 1 and 2 instead of leading, I tended to wait for direction and followed what others suggested. After getting some experience I decided to try to do it by myself and I was determined and motivated to show good results.

From this experience, I learned a lot and I discovered that I enjoy working with others when the team atmosphere is respectful and supportive. I realized that I have

ideas which are worth sharing and that my contributions really matter and can have a big influence. I also saw that my ability to organize tasks helped me to structure the work of the whole team.

Looking back, I can remember specific moments where I succeeded—for instance, in period 3 when I was a project leader I put a lot of effort into that project that me, and my team out of more than 10 groups got third place in the race. I was really proud of me and my team and we achieved our goal and achieved even more than we expected. Such moments showed me that I can lead and contribute in meaningful ways.

Next time, when I have the opportunity to be a project leader I will definitely use such an opportunity. I want to make a successful team and set clear goals and responsibilities within the team. I'll also work on improving my communication skills, especially when it comes to discussing different viewpoints respectfully.

At the same time, I will continue doing what already works well for me: being a good listener, supporting my teammates, and staying respectful of others' ideas. I believe that with more experience, I'll become more confident and effective in teamwork situations.