

# Leadership Experience

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During my summer internship this year, I worked in a group of 6 people to produce a scheduler application for our office. We split into two person teams, and one person served as the driver and the other the navigator. The driver's role was to write the code and overall control the computer, while the navigator was meant to give advice and keep track of the time as they went along. This is called pair programming.

Pairs rotated throughout the summer, so that we could all learn each other's work styles. During one such rotation, I was paired with a rather headstrong guy. He wanted to be the driver, and I'm a naturally shy person so I was more than ok with navigating. Unfortunately, he rarely listened to my advice, and almost never allowed me to drive. When I did get the chance to code, he would often take charge of the keyboard to interrupt what I was doing. This became extremely frustrating, and eventually I took him aside to explain that what he was doing was bothering me. He seemed to understand, and for a short time I was able to have my say and drive. This didn't last long though, and pretty soon he was back to taking over.

I eventually changed my attitude towards him, and tried to be more assertive. It was difficult, but eventually I learned how to talk over him and interrupt when needed. It didn't really feel like leadership to me at first, but I realized that we needed to be a team to get the application done, and teamwork means that no one gets left behind. My partner was leaving me in the dark, so I took charge and caught up to him.