**Learning Journal**

**1. Describe what you did. This does not mean that you copy and paste from what you have posted or the assignments you have prepared. You need to describe what you did and how you did it.**

This week’s assignments were pretty routine. The discussion and the written assignments were self-explanatory. In order to answer the questions, I did not end up doing any outside research as the materials provided had enough to answer the questions.

**2. Describe your reactions to what you did**

I enjoyed reading the book of essays this week. It was not what I expected from the description in the forward. I had thought that it would be essays of individual case study analyses. Instead it was a very readable and entertaining set of essays about the problems that can arise in software project management.

**3. Describe any feedback you received or any specific interactions you had. Discuss how they were helpful**

I got an email from the instructor about my discussion post, which I always enjoy. I was puzzled by his comment this time (this was regarding having 10 more employees to do the job in half the time). I had to double check my discussion post to make sure that I hadn’t actually put a number in it. I was fairly certain that I hadn’t, but I’m older and my memory is not what it once was. So I checked. Luckily, I hadn’t specified a number of staff afterall. Brain don’t fail me now!!

**4. Describe your feelings and attitudes**

I felt pretty confident this week as most of the jargon about project management was actually familiar for a change. :)

Also, I was happy to see a book. Now, if only I could hold it, smell it, and turn the pages. LOL

**5. Describe what you learned**

I’d say that the book of essays reinforced what I already had assumed about increased headcount not being linear with increased effort. However, it was good to see all of the explanations as to why detailed by someone in the field.

**Another set of questions to consider in your learning journal statement include:**

**1. What surprised me or caused me to wonder?**

Considering the information from our textbook slides, I was surprised to see so many students say they would ask their teammates to double their effort. I realize that employers in start-ups might expect employees to work longer than normal, but double effort seems unsustainable for anything beyond a couple of days. I found it particularly striking as most of the students here also work. If they were asked to double their effort at work, they wouldn’t be able to maintain their schooling + work. And there are more non-traditional students than traditional ones now. It just seemed odd to me.

**2. What happened that felt particularly challenging? Why was it challenging to me?**

Replying to the discussion posts is difficult this week. Knowing that I hold a completely different opinion from so many of the students makes me feel uncomfortable. I’m not sure how I will reply to them yet, and have yet to do so. I only have a few hours left to decide how I want to approach the discussions. (After going back to post my replies, I see that several students chimed in who argued on the side of speaking to management. Whew, I’m not the only one!!)

**3. What skills and knowledge do I recognize that I am gaining?**

I am definitely getting a better sense of what it takes to develop a large software system. Also, I am getting a much deeper understanding of the sort of day-to-day paperwork software engineers or PMs might have to write up.

**4. What am I realizing about myself as a learner?**

Considering that I was so concerned about answering the discussion posts that were so different from my own, I realize that I monitor my work in comparison with my peers’ work. I guess I am looking for consensus to make sure the answers are right in a knowledge space I’m not very comfortable with..

**5. In what ways am I able to apply the ideas and concepts gained to my own experience?**

I’m not sure how I will use the information learned in this week’s lesson. However, I know that a lot of what has been in the discussion rings true to me. I know that having “help” who are not experts or doing things as you would like them done does not make a job any faster. In fact, progress can stop entirely while training people.

**Finally, describe one important thing that you are thinking about in relation to the activity.**

One post mentioned speaking to regulators about unfair labor practices. While in theory this is a good idea, I would imagine that it would be career suicide. I think most people simply try to double their effort because they fear losing their job or reputation for work ethic. Nonetheless the right thing to do for the team is to say no to management. I can’t say I feel the question is fully resolved even after mulling over all the discussion points.