Hello,

My name is Brandon Dooley. Throughout the CS1081 module computers and society I have learned many things. However, today I am going to discuss what I have learned about working in teams, and in particular team leadership and project management.

At the beginning of the module I was elected as team leader as a result of a vote held between all members. I had originally put myself forward to fulfil this role, should my team want me to. However, that being said I had no idea of what lay ahead.

Throughout the module I had to lead and manage various video making projects during the 4 hour sessions. While I enjoyed my time in the position as team leader I also learned about the frustrations and worries of leading a team project, especially with a deadline looming over your head.

It seemed that Murphy’s Law had a constant place amongst us. Anything that could go wrong, did. We were constantly faced with adversities when we went to throw our final product together, with things such as software malfunctions, projects running over the time limit and many other things.

That being said, I feel that it was Murphy’s Law and the hiccups themselves that taught not just me, but all of us the most important lessons throughout this module. We, as a team, learned how to overcome these obstacles under extremely rigid time restraints and deadlines. We were able to produce and provide an end result of what we believed was an excellent standard.

I encountered many frustrations as team leader throughout the various projects. I learned that it is nearly impossible to have all team members working to the potential that you would like them to. There were times where I felt as if I was the only one doing the work, as a result of my title. There was a constant need to push my team and encourage them to strive to work harder and produce a higher quality of content, all the while ensuring that I was a fair team leader that my team would enjoy working under.

On the other hand, there was also many rewarding features of my time spent as team leader. There is something extremely rewarding at sitting back after the deadline had came and went and looking back over your projects with your team. You begin to realise the power that comes in numbers and how much more one can achieve as a result of collaboration and good leadership. It felt good to praise my team after a project was finished, and we had received our feedback from the module director.

All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed my time as team leader and enjoyed the computers and society module itself. I feel I have gained valuable skills with regards to team leadership and project management. I feel that I have developed as a person and have gained confidence when it comes to working in groups. However, the greatest triumph throughout this module was overcoming one of my biggest fears and presenting a 5 minute talk in front of an audience. Thank you.