David Schaad Total Points: 100

**Why is this week's topic important for teamwork? (20 pts)**

Understanding my personality and the strengths and weaknesses that come with that helps me better understand how I can improve as a team member. By understanding my strengths, I can rely on them more heavily, and by understanding my weaknesses, I can learn to rely on others or seek ways to improve those weaknesses until they’re no longer weaknesses. Furthermore, understanding that other people have very different personalities and perspectives makes working as a team much more manageable. It’s a constant reminder to take a step back every once in a while and try to put myself in the other person’s shoes.

**How do plan on contributing to the team, besides completing your tasks? (20 pts)**

As I learn more about my teammates and start to get a glimpse of their personalities, I can start to piece together their individual strengths and weaknesses, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the team overall. On a larger scale, I could use this information to try and specialize each person’s role into something that they both enjoy and can be successful in. On a smaller scale, I can offer my own skills and proficiencies to teammates who may be struggling with a task and be more open to asking for help or guidance from them in return.

**How does your experience relate to other experiences you have had? (20 pts)**

Understanding my personality has always been a fascinating goal of mine. Especially when I was younger, I often compared myself to what I considered to be the ideal personality, mainly including things like extroverted, talkative, confident, assertive, and charismatic. Because I’ve always been a more introverted and quieter person, I often felt bad about myself because I didn’t fit that “ideal” standard. I felt that in order to really have worth or value as a person, I needed to change my personality to fit that ideal. However, I’ve come to understand that there are strengths and weaknesses to practically any personality traits and being introverted and quiet has certainly been beneficial to me and to those around me in a number of experiences.

**How does your experience relate to other classmates’ experiences? (20 pts)**

I think a lot of my classmates have had similar feelings as I had (and sometimes still have) at one point or another. It’s very easy to look at characters portrayed in media and pick out traits they have that you don’t. Extroversion certainly is portrayed as desirable more often than not with talkative, social butterfly characters, while introversion is often looked down upon in media as being awkward, weird, uninteresting, or just embarrassing. While trying to stretch beyond your current limitations is typically good, I imagine several of my more introverted classmates, not just in this class either, have wished that they weren’t introverted or that they were more extroverted, without properly recognizing the strengths of being introverted.

**If this was a religion class, how would you relate this week’s topic to the gospel? (20 pts)**

Before we can really understand and help other people, we need to understand ourselves. God gave each one of us specific strengths and weaknesses, some relating to personality, others to interests and aspirations. We know that it is our duty to take advantage of our strengths and use them to benefit those around us, but we can’t do that unless we discover what those strengths and weaknesses are. Furthermore, while we do have weaknesses, we have been blessed with the opportunity to grow and improve. God has promised us that He will take our weaknesses and make them strengths should we rely on Him in faith and serve Him.