David Schaad Total Points: 100

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

Synergy is a raw, unadulterated form of teamwork that sparks ideas, experiences, and bonds between anyone involved. While teamwork in itself comes in many different flavors, such as a sports team or a division of a company, synergy, when executed properly, creates an environment for innovation, comradery, and productivity that wouldn’t be possible otherwise. However, in order to synergize with the people around you, you have to be willing to take risks. You may have to be vulnerable and humble. You may try things that you don’t know if they’ll work out. And you have to take those experiences, whether good or bad, and run with them, trying to learn from them so you can do better next time.

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

Besides completing my tasks, I can contribute to the team by practicing humility and being willing to experiment when applicable. By acknowledging that I don’t know everything, I can open the doors for new ideas and help my peers feel comfortable sharing ideas or insights in a judgement-free zone.

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

I think one of the most common settings for synergy in my life is in conversations. There have been countless times where I was talking with someone I may not have known very well, but once one of us really opened up or showed some of their vulnerabilities, the other almost always did the same. These conversations, even if they were sad or difficult, often solidified our relationship more than any of our previous conversations came close to, simply because one of us was willing to take a risk and really let the other person see even a little bit of what’s going on behind the scenes.

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

I like to hope that most of my classmates have had at least one really good experience with a group in school, whether that be in college or prior. Often times, what made these groups stand out was synergy between the group members. Whether it was a sense of friendship and genuine care, or someone bringing new ideas to the table and playing off each person’s strengths, these groups were memorable due to participants trying to create, whether intentionally or not, an environment for synergy to flourish.

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

Any missionary has probably heard the phrase, “Doctrine doesn’t convert people; testimonies do.” This isn’t to say that doctrine should be ignored or devalued, but often times what really pierces a person’s heart and opens them up to the promptings of the Spirit is when a faithful member pours their soul out. They risk being rejected despite it or feeling embarrassed because they don’t know anything, but a heartfelt testimony helps the Holy Ghost work a lot more than reciting scriptures every can.