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CAS100B

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My CAS 100B group experience

I have the privilege to say that I was part of the A-team for CAS100B this experience was can be considered to be enlightening since I have learned how to communicate with people from different cultures. During my scholastic(is it appropriate) years in an El Salvadorian high school I have had the privilege to have worked with group members that I’ve been acquainted since I was in kindergarten. Thus I have learned that I can work effectively with people that do not share the same cultures as me and by working together we have created our own co-culture and a group culture with my group the A-team.(to repetitive perhaps) Most of my skills related to working in a group have been intuitive to me however actually knowing the terminology or the scientific approach of working in a group has been quite helpful.

However I ‘m not trying to give the impression that working with people that I barely know has not been challenging. On the contrary I think that it was challenging to adapt to people that was not aware on their work ethics or their views in life. The structuration of the group was hard to develop since I was unaware of my group member skills and their guidelines on the rules they usually use when working in a group. Therefore it was critical that we used our communication skills in order to set the norms, rules and use of resources that would create the foundations (don’t know if it can be used the same way as in Spanish) of the A-team. I guess that our group was very dependent of the adaptive structuration theory because we relied a lot since we were not used to working together it aided us in making hard decision by using computer/technology resources to back up our personal ideas but in a way that they were maintained anonymously in the case that our group members would not approve. Probably it is due to the primary tension that one occurs when working with new group members.

I remember that day we had to decided the group rules one and one of our group members brought a online resources of a standard guideline in working in a group. I think they were helpful because we would have group discussion on whether to implement certain rules or modify them. I think this was the first time we successfully establish a group socialization were we had to adjusted to each other. Obviously we had some secondary tensions because some of my group members viewed some of the rules as ridiculous and other thought they would be need. The activity to set a group rules was probably used as a mean of teambuilding since it was a task that didn’t really require any tedious work other promoting some kind of unity by getting acquainted to each other in a working environment. This activity probably helped us pass the assimilation phase because we adjusted to each other and it became evident that there was an emerging leader out of the activity.

The A-team never designated a leader however it was obvious who had the power in the group. I was honestly happy I was not leader since I hate going around making sure everybody is comfortable with the task they were given or making sure everybody can make it to the schedule meetings. I see myself as an autocratic leader since I like giving orders but I know that people usually get pissed if their ideas don’t get heard and I would sincerely disregard their views seeing as I tend to be stubborn. In view of the fact that I know I’m not good at managing large groups I feel that I was more valuable for the A-Team in giving opinions and ideas. Nevertheless I’m happy that the emerging leader turned out to be a democratic one since she would take everybody opinion into consideration and then a collective decision; I think this is one of the reasons our group was an effective one. However I did take leadership a couple of times when it came to doing the video editing because nobody really knew how to cut clips out of a movie I took the initiative to learn how to do it and I a way I became the tech guy after that. I think the term Contingency approach applies to this since I took leadership when it depended on some skill, knowledge, and time available to edit the video. ( All of us in some point of the group activity became a a leader due to a distributed leader sometime our leader would be busy and thus somebody would have to stand up and take the responsibility of organizing the group… add this sentence somewhere in this paragraph)

I’m happy with the results that he A-team achieved since we received good grades throughout the course. Perhaps the only thing that I didn’t behave appropriately was that I arrived a couple of times late.(or coma or something)Because coming from a Latin culture it is acceptable to be a couple of minute late. However I finally self monitored myself and understood that it was having negative reaction on the group. Nevertheless, in the end there was definitively a feeling of cohesiveness since we all understood each other pretty well and there was sense of unity when we achieved group projects. Unfortunately the exit phase was inevitable but I am happy that I was part of the A-team.