**Journal Entry Week #1**

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***XP Core Value – Feedback***

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In software planning, feedback is intended to be iterative. The team discussions take place daily or weekly to make sure goals are inspected and refined as needed. For this week, there were two team discussions outlining the following topics: Waffle.io setup, GitHub Repo setup, updating the Kanban flow diagram, team name suggestions, and game ideas.

Since most of the topics discussed were overhead details to starting a new project, the main feedback of this week was a group discussion on possible game ideas. After browsing through the topics mentioned on the CS Unplugged website, the group made the non-committal decision to look into cryptography as a general category of learning for the game. The gameplay, UI, and as well as game content were discussed informally. This was mostly a back and forth discussion on the feasibility, with occasional references to how the UI would look and behave. The discussion was long and detailed, but no team consensus was met. As of now, there are no concrete decisions made in terms of game topic.

Even though no decision was met, feedback as a core value of XP was practiced in the team discussion this week because ideas were analyzed and refined. Every member participated in the meeting with the goal of refining the game idea into a project that accomplished the goals of the assignment as well as could be completed in the allotted amount of time. Another feedback loop of game ideas and discussion will be needed to improve upon our current idea.

A possible suggestion for improved feedback is to exchange criticism with alternative ideas. That improves the likelihood of meeting efficiency and an increase in total number of team ideas. A second possible way to improve feedback is to have everyone provide an idea. Often times, only one or two people are talking in group discussions; in these case, fresh ideas (even fresh bad ideas) can start a discussion in a completely new direction.