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15.053

Final Project Reflection

This project has taught me the importance of good organization, planning, and delegation in a group project, which I believe will be extremely valuable in any situation in the future, whether in school or in the workforce, where multiple people will be working to solve a problem together. With any type of larger project, it is too difficult and large for any one person to complete it on their own. Having team members to divide up the work with allow the work to be completed much more efficiently. At the beginning of the project, we tried to have everyone look at and work on everything together; while it was important to make sure that everyone on the team understood what progress was being made and what needed to be done in order to produce successful results, this method of having everyone work on everything only made the project more overwhelming and unproductive because there were too many people trying to work on the same thing, and it became overwhelming because all team members felt responsible for every aspect of the project. After a few days of this structure not producing much progress, we decided to better organize our team: instead of having everyone work on everything, we divided the work up based on team members’ strengths. For example, members who are better at coding focused on coding and those who are better at analysis and writing wrote more of the report. We still had regular team meetings so that all members were updated on the progress being made in the project and so that we could help each other out if any member was experiencing a road block, but this method of delegating the work allowed the project to be completed much more quickly and less overwhelmingly. We also had a timeline that we followed to ensure that we could finish everything before the due date with some buffer time in case anything didn’t go as expected, which allowed us to have more concrete deadlines before the actual due date of when we wanted the different parts of the project to be finished so that we could get help from the TAs if needed well before the due date. All of these skills that we developed throughout this project will be very useful for the many group projects that I know I will have to work on in college and afterwards, and this experience has helped me become more comfortable and confident in working effectively in a team.