Olivier McNicoll

Homework 5 Reading

The reading on what google learned from its quest to build the perfect team was pretty interesting. Generally, what I took from the reading is that groups that may seem to work best because of their professionalism and order actually aren’t as successful as groups who are more friendly and free. The addition of compassion and relationships to a group breaks down professional barriers, which allows more people to speak and give their opinions. This also effects the general happiness of employees because they are able to ask for what they really want, and don’t end up feeling unneeded or unwanted. This becomes especially difficult to do in certain places, such as Google software engineering groups which are naturally full of introverts. In such cases, as was seen with Sakaguchi and his group, forcing an unnatural amount of personal sharing sets a more friendly tone in the end, and resets the status quo, ultimately achieving the more relaxed atmosphere that is desired for the best team.

The reading on stopping grading curves definitely has a solid point. Whereas many classes that have curves are turned into cutthroat competitions where helping a classmate could result in you hurting your own grade, industries are all about achieving the best result as a company, which includes working together with your coworkers. The professor in the article demonstrated that not only is teamwork better for the industry, but it also helps students learn more and get better scores, because teaching material is the best way to learn material.