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ENGR 110  
13 March 2024

### Reflection 3

Over the course of this project some of the most important advice we got was from our company representative, Victoria Roberts. The UCCE is our primary customer as the product that we were making is to enhance the calculator on their website. Victoria was able to provide us with a lot of helpful information that we as a team were not able to realize on our own. She gave us insight as to what we should look out for when talking about composting and helpful resources in order to get our ideas flowing. Having an actual deliverable at the end of the quarter, rather than a project that would sit in my desktop unused was definitely a daunting task. The anxieties of perfection and executing what we promised weighed on me throughout the project, but at the same time it allowed me to create the best work that I've done in my educational career. With a genuine standard of practice to consider, I had to think about things like aria text that aid with disabled users or think about the responsiveness of our website on different devices, which are all things I would look past for other types of school projects. I feel a lot more confident in my abilities in working for and alongside with a customer. I was able to develop my communication skills with less technical partners and fine tune my professional skills during the course of working with Victoria.

In addition to the professional skills that I acquired during this course, my engineering skills were significantly improved as well. Prior to the course, the way I would go about a project did not have an intense design process. My plans were not thought out and resulted in a lot of points where I would hit a wall. This overall would slow down my implementation and even would have me going back to the drawing board to find other ways that work, completely scrapping my work all together. This course has taught me how essential planning is to setting up a successful execution. During the design phase, my team had a surplus of ideas, without any understanding of how difficult each addition would be. When creating a timeline and task of executables, we quickly realized the importance of analyzing the scope of the project, considering timeline, priorities, and our own skill set. I have no doubt that if we planned less than Dr. JAK recommended we would be left doing too many things, getting overwhelmed and spread thin. Rather, we designed, analyzed, reassessed, and redesigned until we had a plan that was reasonable. By engineering in this way, we were able to spend more time working on less parts, resulting in our calculator being well thought out.

Throughout this project I was always considering the user experience of the calculator. Although this calculator is not life changing nor revolutionary, I knew the purpose and meaning behind what we were trying to achieve. I wanted to consider what the people using the calculator would appreciate when exploring the interface. The Composting Education Program made it clear what their values were since the beginning of the project, emphasizing that they want it to be inspirational and be a resource to users and this definitely played a role in how we designed

and implemented the site. Rather than going for super technically advanced features that would impress other computer science majors, the focus was on bringing meaning and interest to the site through non-technical eyes. This meant visual, interactive elements, and context for why they are actually visiting the calculator and the UCCE CEP site to begin with.

In terms of teamwork, I felt like my team lacked in this aspect. A lot of our meetings felt last minute although we communicated well over text messages. I do credit myself to this lack of uniformity as I decided to take charge of the calculator rather than splitting tasks up when I felt like there was not a sufficient amount of time to rely on my team members. I wish I would have practiced more accountability when it came to asking my teammates for help. Unfortunately, I did not have the best team experience this quarter, and although there are definitely areas of improvement for myself as a team member, I now know what I expect of myself when running into similar problems in the future.