

Reflection Report – Teamwork in Year 1

During my first three periods at NHL Stenden I had the opportunity to work on and learn about a wide range of topics. But in every single one of the projects teamwork was a major aspect of the learning outcome. Every project came with its own kind of teamwork experience. In the first period we worked for a fictional eco friendly sock company and delivered a website using HTML and PHP. Second period we set up a network infrastructure with virtual machines. And in the third period we programmed an Arduino robot to autonomously follow a race track. All of these projects had one thing in common though. We had to work together. While many people found this inconvenient or annoying, I found this really exciting and also potentially nicely challenging. Teams were picked by the teacher, so I didn't get to choose who I wanted to work with. This wasn't always easy. Sometimes I ended up with people I didn't know or didn't really click with. At first it felt a little frustrating or unfair. But it quickly became clear to me that this was on purpose. It taught me that teamwork isn't about working with your friends but about working towards the same goal. Even if I didn't get along with someone personally, we knew we had to work together. This made for a great space to practice professionalism or teamwork. In most teams I was just a regular member, doing what was assigned to me and helping out where I could. But because I already knew quite a bit about the subjects I often felt like involving myself in a lot of the decision making even if I was not the leader. This inspired me to actually become a leader myself in the third period. This was actually a large shift for me and definitely not what I expected. Even though I feel like I did not execute things as I was hoping to, I am glad that I took the opportunity and got to see things from the leaders perspective. I feel like this experience will be a great benefit to me in later projects whether I will be the leader or not. One thing I really like about teamwork is the feeling that I'm not alone. When I feel like I hit a wall or I run into a problem I can't solve I can always bring this up in the team. Usually there is someone who can help, either because of their outside perspective or just their different skill set. This makes everything feel more manageable and makes the work seem more fluid. But I also experienced some frustrating moments. Sometimes people can drop out of the flow. People can lose motivation and can stop doing their part. I personally find it hard to deal with this kind of situation. It can feel wrong to call someone out especially if they are my classmate or a friend. But we managed to address these issues together in our weekly process classes which helped. One thing I know I could have done better

is to be more strict as the team leader. I should have enforced more deadlines from the start. I also need to not forget to give out strikes when appropriate. I believe I was like this because I used to be more relaxed as just a member. I need to remember that when I am a leader I am the one who needs to keep things moving forward and organized. Overall I am really happy that I chose to keep working in this programme. All hurdles aside, it was a really rewarding experience.