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SPCOM100

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In the last year of high school, I went to a hackathon at York university. I had been to other hackathons before, but this was the first time I went to a university student only hackathon by myself. I found a group of 3 other students and we worked on a geocaching and tracking application, I worked on the backend and wanted to prove to the team that I could help develop a winning project.

When one of the judges came around, she remarked that the project was just a “discount Google Maps.” The **communication climate** was such that I had to both convince her of why my project was good, but I couldn’t disagree with her, so I had to use **confirming communication** while she was use **disconfirming communication.** While I’m sure she was trying to give us advice, it seemed like after spending 32 hours on a project (without sleep) and comparing our project to Google maps that she was attacking our very being and was being **verbally aggressive**.

If I knew what I knew now I would have taken less of a **defensive stance** and I would have been more **understanding.** I would focus more on the content of what she was saying (**Problem Orientation**) and I think being more open to what she said (**Provisonalism**), would have led instead to a more productive conversation, instead we tried to deny what she was saying and tried to specify points of contradiction. We should of **seeked more information,** I think if we got her to clarify her points we would have been able to agree with our **critic** and learned about next time. After we disagreed with her analysis, we found out that we didn’t win any prizes, while I was sad for a while I learned that you need to take criticism for what its worth, be **empathetic** to the speaker and learn what they have to say