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For our discourse discipline essay, Computer Science: The Bridge between Disciplines, we worked efficiently towards the deadline and maintained a sense of responsibility. With our contract, we established viable methods of communication such as email and text message, but surprisingly, used canvas as our main method of communication. This worked well, as through the forum, we each received prompt email notifications or canvas notifications through our phones and were always being updated on our progress. For our plan, we were able to meet on Mondays in the library from 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM but also met in Half-Dome when the library was closed. When one of our members, Rolly lived off campus and did not have a means of transportation, we had someone tasked with the responsibility of picking and dropping him off. Although our personal responsibilities were outlined in the contract, we were able to renegotiate and reach consensus on who would be assigned which specific area of research and also what examples they would provide. We would then upload our documents through Google Docs, and work and edit simultaneously. Each member should receive the same grade as we have all adhered to our responsibilities and showed that we were personally invested in this assignment.

Within the process, we were able to communicate well and view our progress easily by using Canvas as well as Google Docs. With this, we were able to focus on the main criteria of our paper and produce a developed first draft. Having the draft workshop was very helpful as we had guidance from our professor on the direction our paper should be headed and input on the overall flow and structure of our essay. It is after this that we learned that our paper did not transition well as it had five different voices within one paper. It is with this that I chose to focus on working on the structure and transition and make sure our evidence stayed relevant and purposeful. We ended up meeting late at night on Mondays which was not ideal as we had only a few days to meet and would pack a lot of work into single days. This work style would conflict with other class assignments and would lead to very late nights. Although we did accomplish much with this method, it would have been more efficient to follow the Agile Project Management method. With Agile, we would be able to have multiple quick 15 minute meetings in which we evaluate our standing and prioritize new goals.

Within our presentation, the most effective aspect was the simplicity and directed focus. We chose to use the TED talk’s format as inspiration and followed a black background with yellow highlighted text for areas of focus. By having a black background, this makes it easier for the audience to focus as it is not a bland black and white text. In terms of content, we were able to express and convey the keynotes and provided a clear background and definition of our thesis. Our thesis was that since C.S is very new, it has the freedom to experiment in its research methods, publication, and as a community is not restricted through established values. Within our presentation, we also had a positive by including supporting images such as diagrams and graphs as well as examples of written C.S papers. Some negative aspects of our presentation may have been the length as we sometimes spent too much time on certain slides and kept to the original PowerPoint presentation formatting. Although all four groups ended up doing PowerPoint presentations, it would have been more beneficial for us to do a video in which we interview our professors about the core values of C.S and provide our input.

With regards to the course learning outcomes from our Writing 100 syllabus, we focused “Demonstrate engagement with the multi-stage processes of critical reading, formal writing, and public speaking, Select and apply the appropriate conventions of personal, academic, or professional forms of expression, Synthesize diverse perspectives through collaboration in academic discourse communities, Apply professional ethical standards to the research process and its public representation, Craft language that reveals aesthetic awareness.” Essentially, we were able to apply all of the learning outcomes to our assignment as it required multiple drafts of our essay and also required us to compose our presentation and focus on aesthetics and having our thesis received clearly by members of all disciplines. This can only be accomplished by using specially crafted language and anticipating the positions of my peers and adjusting my essay/presentation to them.

I understand now that communication is the most important aspect of any group project and must be planned well in advance. For future projects, we will clearly plan our individual responsibilities and self-police our group members in order to reach deadlines and have time to review. Another important utility that is rarely used is the professor. I have always thought of these assignments as tests in which you display what you have learned on your own to your professor, but this is not the case. Accepting input from the professor will only strengthen our future assignment/projects. Also, I have changed my stance on canvas, although I appreciated its quick grading system, I had also disliked its collaborative elements as I had believed it to be clunky and inefficient in simultaneous peer editing. Afterwards, I learned about the commenting feature as well as collaborations which employed Google Docs and streamlined the whole process. Overall, I will apply the methods I have learned to other pursuits such as my university organization, The Quantitative project, and will employ these phases of planning and push for a unified system of communication/workspace.