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COMM 2110

**Final Group Paper**

**Group 3 - Team Weber**

Our team, Group 3, was formed just like every other group back in February. The only difference, is rather than having 4 people, we were the last 3 people standing, so we ended up being grouped together. We were informed that on canvas we would show up as a group of 4 with a guy that haven’t even came to class yet, so he probably would be much help. At the time, I don’t think any of us really thought much of it. Our objective as a team, was to brainstorm, plan, and carry out an 8 hour service project that benefited an organization in our community. We had just over 2 months to complete this task, so none of us really stressed over the fact there was only 3 of us.

Our group consisted of me (Taylor), Justin, Tanner, and some guy named Kyle. As implied above, we never received any communication from Kyle, so it was up to the 3 of us to get this done. On the first day that we were put into our group, we all introduced ourselves. The main objective while we were doing this was to figure out everyone’s work schedule so we could plan times to meet and carry out the project. Tanner introduced himself and we learned that he runs his own window tinting and car audio company. He made it sound like his schedule was very open because of this. Justin introduced himself and we learned that he worked at the Burger King on Hill Air Force Base and had a fairly consistent work schedule, but it involved working during the evening. I introduced myself, I work at the Dairy Queen in Layton, Full Time, as the Assistant later to become General Manager. In addition to this, I have night classes 2 nights a week. So my schedule isn't very open and is hard to work around. Again, at the time, we didn’t think or stress too much about any of this, later to find out we should have been.

Some teams used canvas as their primary form of communication, some used group texts, some used in class communication. We mutually decided that using a Google Hangout would be the easiest way to communicate. So we created our hangout and named it “Group 3”. This was how we primarily communicated for the first portion of the semester before other events happened that made it impractical to use.

Our first assignments as a group were the Project proposal, Group Working Agreement, and Team Introductions. Having 3 assignments to do, and 3 of us in the group we decided to branch off and each tackle one. Justin took the Project Proposal, I took the Group Working Agreement, and Tanner took the Team Introduction. We had talked briefly in class as a group about the things we wanted in our Group Working Agreement. We essentially agreed on a common theme of don’t screw the rest of the team over, so thats what our working agreement was built on. I finished that and submitted it just before it was due on February 10th. (It is important to note, that at this point Tanner stopped coming to class. He was at this point keeping in contact with the group though.) So as the next week progressed Justin was hard at work getting our Project Proposal done, and we both thought Tanner was hard at work doing our Team Introduction. Fast-forward to Monday February 16th, the day before the team introduction was due. We hadn't heard anything from Tanner in the previous week, so me and Justin had talked about a back-up plan in the event that he didn't come through. I messaged him Monday morning in our hangout asking if he had even looked at it, he said no but assured that it would be done before the next day. Fast-forward again to 8pm Monday night, Tanner hadn’t even started it and wanted us to tell him how to do it. We both pitched him the idea of using a Weber State shirt and putting the symbols on it that represented us. He proceeded to ask when it had to be done, as if I hadn’t told him many times prior. I told him it was due the next day, and he said he couldn’t get a shirt that night. I told him that we had one for him in class earlier that week, but he wasn’t there to grab it. He also decided at this time to inform us that he was getting his wisdom teeth out the next morning and he wouldn’t be in class to help present it. Me and Justin were both pretty shocked at this point. Justin proposed that he would still design a logo, scan it, and email it to us. I wasn't so nice, I told him “Sorry if I'm a little blunt, but its not cool dropping that the night before an assignment is due that you have been in charge of for a week…”. Two hours later (10pm) he told us it would be ready within the next half hour. Come 11pm he emailed us a really nice looking logo that said “Team Weber” on it. The only problem was it didn’t represent any of us specifically in any way. I got up by myself the next morning and presented this to the class. Tanner was of course getting his wisdom teeth out that morning, and Justin had car problems and couldn’t make it, so I got up and presented Team Weber to the class. This was the first time that our Group Working Agreement had been broken. Not only was Tanner late getting the rest of the group the project he was assigned, but it wasn’t even fully completed which ended up hurting mine and Justin’s grade.

Time went on, and with that we had class. Me and Justin were almost always there, but Tanner was always missing. The last time we saw Tanner in class was the day of the first exam where he mooched off of what me and Justin had learned in class so he could get a test score. After that we tried to plan a date for us to all meet up out of class. It was surprisingly Tanner that had suggested we meet the next Sunday (March 1st) at 6pm to talk about the project and what we needed to get done. We decided to meet at a McDonalds that was central to where we all lived for the convenience of each of us. Sunday rolled around and Me and Justin showed up ready to get some work done, but Tanner never showed up and would’t respond to any of our messages.   
 That night, me and Justin decided that we wanted to do two separate food drives. One outside of a local grocery store, and another throughout a local neighborhood. We decided we were going to shoot for the first week in April to do the project. This was a date, that at the time worked mutually for both of us. We discussed what we would do regarding Tanner and the remainder of the semester.

We didn’t hear or see Tanner after this, so me and Justin decided that we weren’t going to include him in the group for the remainder of the semester. Now, our already small group of 3 had dropped even further to just Me and Justin. Rather than using the Google Hangout to communicate, we just began to text each other and used that as our primary form of communication. Really the biggest problem now, was going to be planning around my busy days and his busy nights. At this time I had been informally bumped from Assistant Manager and my job, to General Manager, so that made it even harder to get days off.

As the month progressed, I contacted Smiths in Layton about having a drive outside their store. They told me that it wouldn’t be possible. Unfortunately, with work becoming more stressful and my work load at school growing, I wasn’t able to contact another store like I wanted to. Me and Justin both decided, that with the time left in the semester, it would be nearly impossible for either of us to get our schedules to match up for both a food drive outside a store, and a food drive throughout a neighborhood. So we both decided to put our time and effort into doing the neighborhood drive. We were still shooting for the last week of March / the first Week in April to do this because in theory our work schedules were supposed to match up due to this being the High School spring break freeing up some of my night employees to work in the day. This didn’t work out like we had hoped and we weren't able to do it that week.

With the end of the semester coming quicker than either of us wanted to, we come to last week. We both realized that our project was due the next week. So we both agreed that although we wouldn’t be able to do a project on the scale we originally had planned on and wanted to do, we were going to do something, so that we could present in class.

We planned to meet on Sunday evening (April 12) at the McDonalds in Layton like we had before. When we got there, we figured out that the stars had aligned and we both would be able to do things on Monday. We decided that we would go to around 100 houses and leave a grocery bag with a flyer attached to it explaining what we were doing. I was in charge of making the flyer and Justin was in charge of getting grocery bags to use. We planned on meeting the next day at 1pm with all of our stuff and running stuff around to houses.

I went home, made the flyers and asked Justin what he thought. I didn’t get a response that night. I asked him again the next morning to get his ok so I could print them out, I also asked him how the hunt for grocery bags was going. I sat around all morning waiting for a reply from him, and finally an hour before we were supposed to meet he replied saying they looked good. I printed and cut them out. Justin then told me that something happened at work and he wouldn’t be able to run the things around like we originally planned. I knew that I was going to have to run them all around by myself at this point. He then told me that he hadn’t gotten our grocery bags either. So I was in charge of that too. I went into it with a really bad attitude, but after doing it, I realized it wasn’t bad at all. Another thing that made it alright, was the fact it was going to benefit people in need.

The next day, we planned on picking the stuff up at 6pm like we had specified on the flyer. Unfortunately mother nature decided to dump more snow that we had gotten in months in one day. Although we went around, the snow was extremely heavy and I think that discouraged people from leaving things out. Regardless we picked up everything that was left out and attempted to drop it off to the near by Family Connection Pantry in Layton, Utah.

We never really had any defined group roles, but if there was to be a leader, I would say it was me. None of us really talked about it, or agreed upon it, but I feel like if I wasn’t there, nothing would have happened. I had to be there to make sure anything was even happening. But also I blame this same leadership on how our final project ended up happening. Because we had never really established who was in charge, we all just let the time pass thinking in the back of our heads that someone else would take charge and figure stuff out.

The moral of our groups story, is group work requires a group of people willing to work together. In class we learned that the ideal size for a small group is 5-7. When a group of 3 people gets together where only 2 people are willing to do work it becomes really hard. A project that typically would have 4 people to split the workload ended up having only 2. And made it really hard in the end to accomplish the goal.

Although our project did not end up happening at all like we had originally planned at the beginning of the semester, I am really glad that we were able to take part in it. There were many real world applications that I personally learned. First, group work is all around us. I’m sure this is why the small group communication is required for my Computer Science major. In the Computer Science field, group work is essential to getting work done. Often 4-8 people are put in a software engineering team that is in charge of creating a program. Each person needs to know the fundamentals we learned in this class so that they can properly communicate and get the job done. Unfortunately, it's never going to be perfect. There are always going to be people that don't pull their load, and make everyone else cover for them. As I learned from this class, when this happens there isn't much you can do about it. The best thing to do, is to try and overcome it as best as you can, and get the job done.