This database group assignment has been a good experience overall, with a number of things learned and a few hiccups now and again in the process. For my part I was tasked with creating the Cost, Excursions, and Booking portions of the tables and also that portion of the database script. I was present for all the group work up until the database script including creating an ER diagram, creating tables and putting them in 3NF, after this point we divided up the work and only collaborated when certain pieces were due. I also crafted the final version of the interview questions. My individual part was creating the website, which included the welcome screen, the color scheme, the template for each other page, and integrating all of the functions and abilities of the database into the site. For each function(add, delete, etc) I changed it to fit in the website and run smoothly. I also was the programmer for the search and update functions as well as the one who got searching by a particular criteria working. Mainly I was the one in charge of the website, due to the fact that I took CSCI 475 last semester.

The other members Jyoti and Nick account for the remainder of the work. For the starting parts of the project we would all do a small part and upload it for someone to join it all together and turn it in. Jyoti turned out to be a great team leader and was good at reminding us when things were due and keeping communication flowing during this assignment. Jyoti's main contribution aside from team leader was the Documentation as well as the ER tables being in 3NF and also most of the brainstorming on how we should implement each stage(what all we would need). This group definitely needed a strong leader to keep us focused. Nick's contribution came from the actual database. Nick was in charge of creating the ER diagram tables and after they became 3NF he created the script to populate and fill the database. There were a number of problems and things that had to be changed but the database works fine and does just what we need it to do. So overall Jyoti was planning and communication, Nick was the database guy, and I was the website handler, a fair division of labor I feel like.

Sadly we had one group member who did not contribute. Our member Sean provided an ER diagram that was vastly incorrect and had many extraneous or useless attributes. This ER diagram was redone before actual submission. Sean also promised to produce a browse cruises screen for the website, he was given ample information and time and had agreed to complete this. The screen was never finished and Sean has cut off all contact via email and phone, as he never showed up to class, we had no way to talk to him. In my opinion it would have been better not to have him at all than to expect something done and have to go back and do his work as well. Given what he completed and the quality I believe Sean should receive little to no credit for the group assignment, that is if he is still in the class.

Sadly the hardest part was dealing with a group member who made promises to do work and never followed through, in the end setting us back a few days. Other than that the hardest thing for me was getting the right syntax to echo a filled form using php. The best part as with all programming is staring at a piece of code for hours and then someone finally finds the error and everything works as it should, I maintain this to be the most satisfying feeling when programming. The worst again was having a group member bail on us and leave the remainder of our group to clean up his mess. Thankfully our teacher was very accommodating and gave us the time to complete our work regardless of Sean's debacle.

The things I really learned during this project where how to utilize php, html, mysql, and css into a single website, more specifically how to echo form data, and most importantly to think with a cool head and persevere even when you are dealt a less than favorable hand, a valuable lesson in life. For the future I would make sure I have group members who were reliable but other than that I couldn't have asked any more from my group, they were the best I've had in my experience at NIU barring Sean and I enjoyed working with them. I would probably get started on the website portion earlier in an effort to have time to add fancy JavaScript or flash but that is just a personal longing and purely aesthetic.