

Individual Presentation Reflection

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1430 / 230pm

Word Count\*: 1099

Course: Business Communication, COM175

Due Date: 18 December 2017, 11:59pm GMT

\*The word count does not include this cover page or references/bibliography

In this essay, it will be reflected upon the assigned group presentation called “NUG challenge”. The performance and ability to work as a team of the assigned group members will be assessed as well as overall impressions.

The group assigned consisted of three other individuals, making a group of four, allowing symmetric part division and labour efficiency. The overall impression of performance for the group presentation itself were positive relative to the average. Mistakes did occur and optimisation processes can be applied to strengthen assessment.

When thinking and reflecting upon the initial stages of the project and the communication processes involved, space for optimisation is definitely available. Team communication is always big of an issue, especially when a team consists of individuals that barely know each other, nor has everyone throughout experience of how such a process should be handled. The preparation phase overall was quite pleasant, as time to complete preparation and planning phase was well included.

The meetings were one of the hardest thing to properly manage. Finding time and allocating a meeting to a set location, without prior knowledge of a certain location being available, made meetings harder than anticipated. This hurdle could have been removed, by booking locations or meeting in places, where the possibility of interference is relatively low. On the same note, interference and disturbances were rather frequently, hence interrupting optimal flow of the meetings. Having the team agree on time and location is one of the hardest challenges, considering different schedules per person.

Decision making processes were fortunately easy to manage. The team was very fortunately more or less on the same wavelength, making it easy to state and reinforce arguments and shorten decision making processes on the way. Throughout the project, the idea of what to pitch, did pivot. As the assignment itself was based on fiction, the feasibility or better said thought-though-ness of the project was less of a priority, allowing us to focus on a project of choice instead of a project of least resistance. The pitched idea could either be impressing or average, where in the end, average was the decided choice, as scale of reference considered made more ambitious ideas harder to develop and more importantly, harder to communicate, as complexity increases. Hence, to ease understanding of the project´s vision, the less complex idea has been chosen, to ensure that the project vision would be throughout understood.

To reflect on personal impacts of this challenge, effects on myself will be analysed in the following part of the essay.

Presenting itself, has been less challenging personally, prior to the beginning of the assignment, hence a possibly exploitable weakness has been eliminated. A general weakness of mine, has been adequate team communication in terms of time management. I myself, finish certain tasks significantly faster, as I do finish some tasks slightly slower, hence strengths could be exploited and weaknesses covered with strengths from different team members. As an example, A workload can seem harder and longer to different people, not knowing the exact intention of an assignment. When knowing the intention of an assignment, the hoped-for arguments can be made. Utilising ‘The Feynman technique’, tasks can be broken down into elementary constituent parts, which in return can be individually performed on, making the tasks easier and smaller to complete. Hence, as utilisation of ‘the Feynman technique’ was known, the initial stages of the project were well handled.

Lara and I were quite the individuals having strengths and weakness rather similarly, but quite different at the same time. Her ability to be more organised and structured were very helpful. She was a very important vertex between nodes, completing the team. Furthermore, my inability to have other people sometimes fully comprehend a concept, was well covered up by her strength of making some aspects very clear in taking her time and explaining an idea throughout.

Ashia and Joost were the components ensuring the well-running of the team. As Lara and I have relatively more of a dominating personality, especially in regard to discussions and presenting. Joost and Ashia were more than vital. Without the two, the parts of the presentation, in terms of the actual presentation, but also preparation and planning phase, would not have sustained. The well-running of the team was also severely increased by Joost´s and Ashia´s ability to be flexible. Their responsiveness to change and decisions was rather positively, not hindering but vitally supporting the team-work.

In terms of the actual presentation and its performance, optimisation can again be applied, but relatively performance was good. It has been spoken clearly and adequately, posture, volume and pitch were well adjusted. Gestures, eye contact and implementation of the audience was well achieved. It has not been the case, that the presenter was inadequately dressed for the occasion, nor was the attitude towards the assignment serious, enabling such a smooth-running experience, as seen. A major part for optimisation though, is positioning of team members during the presentation. Personally, the traditional sense of the presenter standing still and not moving, is not an ideal I follow.

Human interaction is not static, and as such neither should be presenting.

Hence, the positioning and transitioning between active members and passive members within the team could have been more dynamic objective of practice or learning in the traditional way (learning/revising/practicing by hard), as understanding only gets marginally increased, whereas time consumer is much greater. Understanding does not equal learning or knowing.

To ensure optimisations in the dynamics aspect of the actual presentation, practice can be a solution, though again, I do not comprehend the

The partitions in which the constituent parts were divided and why, is not of importance, as the recording can be taken as reference, and the stating of the facts seen there, does not significantly impact the overall performance.

In terms of optimisations possible if re-done, there are some aspects to point out.

First of all, I would not at all change the team, they were all great and did their job to expected extends, never less and never compromising quality. The topic and the whole project itself must be completely comprehended, I would rather ensure that, than practicing more and more without arbitrarily knowing the intentions. Sometimes, the intention of assignments gets lost, causing problems along the way, even just in their slightest form.

To conclude, the team was a pleasure to work with, very efficient and effective in its constellation. Team members completed each other, as strengths varied in team members. The overall performance and initial preparation phase were both smoother-running as expected, ensuring ability to succeed in this assignment.