

Working in a group is an activity that I am not fond of; even less so when it's a large group. My previous professors never mentioned it so it didn't occur to me that I would most likely be expected to work in groups during my career. Though I somewhat knew it was a possibility, I always just imagined myself working alone. A pro for groups is having multiple perspectives and potentially creating something useful as a result. You get credit for something that you may not have been able to create on your own. The cons are having conflicting personalities in the group, some people try to dominate the entire project and some prefer to let everyone else do all the work; there's also the problem of relying on others and having to work around their schedules. Another major con is the quality of people's work; your own standard is often not the same as someone else's. Overall, working with others is generally harder, especially when there are more differences between the group members than similarities.

I was a part of group 2 and from the beginning I realized a prominent issue was going to be having a voice. At first there are a lot of people talking at once, some vocally, others in the chat. It was a pretty laid back atmosphere and the conversation moved quickly making it hard to follow and give my own input without interrupting others. More often, the conversation would veer off topic which makes me wonder how one should keep everyone on track without nagging or seeming overly strict. After a while, it was only a few voices that were talking whilst everyone else more or else stayed silent. I guess these were the few voices that were consistent and were able to dominate the conversation whereas everyone else stopped trying and would only throw in a comment or question.

Since it was all hypothetical, we were quick to agree on a project. People gave some ideas, a person or two would vocalise one and start talking about it to another and everyone else joined because at that point they already thought out some of the steps. Everyone that gave their input agreed on an atm locator that allowed the user to find atms nearby and filter through them by bank affiliations, fees, etc. Other ideas were similar such as the e-waste disposer locator and a public bathroom locator but they came too late. It was difficult trying to figure out all the steps that would be needed to complete the project and how to divide the work amongst the group members; nobody knew each other on their capabilities This makes me realize the benefits of having a manager or leader as well as people who come in with specific skills.

Throughout the week after there was little to no communication though I can imagine it would be a similar scenario to the conversation we had during class. This activity overall had me reflecting on my own abilities and the presence that I have. It's easy to sit in the background and let everyone else do all the talking/work but it provides

no benefit to myself. I lose out on learning and creating as well as being part of a community. I need to work on having a voice and making it heard; to have confidence in my own skills and ideas otherwise I risk the chance of being forgotten and left behind.