

Lessons Learned

The ambiguity of group projects is a funny thing. On one hand, they're extremely useful tools in teaching the mechanisms of teamwork and producing diversely useful outputs that could not have come from only one source. On the other hand, the uncertainty they contain can sometimes create immense chaos and stress, whether it's trying to coordinate schedules or agree on a method of solution. It is important that we focus on the good they bring and realize the bad is able to be diffused with proper actions.

Fortunately, this group case study project has inspired me and made me excited to continue group work in future situations. My team members were intelligent, respectful, and supportive, so there was not much friction in the process of us getting this project together. I have to admit sometimes the content we focus on in CSD-310 can come off as overwhelming and a lot of the time, I do not find success on my first try of completing things. I learned that it's better to be honest about where you're having trouble instead of trying to act like you have it all together. At one point, I could not understand why I kept running into authentication errors when running our code, so I openly explained this and my teammate expressed they had experienced kind of similar issues and then gave me a tip on how to fix them. Honesty and open communication are key when it comes to group projects because without them, things will pile up in an ugly manner behind the scenes until they're forced to be shown.

Procrastination works with no favoritism meaning it seems to do its black magic on everyone to a certain extent. I have to admit that my team and I could have started completing our objectives a little sooner than we did, but thankfully our late start did not derail our project into oblivion. That doesn't mean that each time will be so lucky though, so going forward, I will

make sure to do my best at filling in that project progress bar every day that I can. This also entails a need for one to be able to take initiative and start a path for the group to take which requires confidence and credibility, two things I will work on always having.

I also learned that sometimes it can be difficult to get in touch with one of your teammates, but that you should keep the benefit of the doubt for them and give them a chance to come through because they usually will. One member of our group seemed to be more detached than the others, but since we directly reached out to him and kindly demanded he put his input to the work, he realized he has a voice and seemed to be more engaged after that.

Like I said though, this group project was smoother than most and I think a lot of that has to do with how we supported each other and communicated. I learned that delegation doesn't always come off as bossy. Each week, one of us would take the initiative to start the path and complete a major part of it and then the others would make significant additions to it leading it to its finalized and polished state. There were always words of encouragement and helpful tips to make sure we felt part of a team.

After everything though, I feel more confident and excited about completing group work. Moving forward, I will face group projects with some healthy anxiety, a strong sense of responsibility, superb time management, and a genuine interest in my teammates' well being.