Reflection on Group Work

Bonds: Charlotte

Unfortunately I don't believe the group project went the way anyone had hoped in regards to group work ethic. I think there were a few key factors in why the project didn't go well though.

Lack of Real Communication

While towards the end we began to really communicate with one another, there was a real problem with communication. Certain people in the group such as myself had very dominating voices in group discussion which left people who did not speak much or did not have enough time to think lagging behind in certain areas. We had also had very strained and uncomfortable conversations in the first two weeks which led to us unfortunately becoming very uncomfortable with each other very quickly. While not everyone vocally expressed this, it was clear that communication would break down due to underlying tensions. Because we never truly addressed this, it made working with one another difficult at times.

With communication as well, there were points where people would be completely left out of entire conversations or decisions. I found myself at multiple points coming back from grabbing food, only to have huge aspects of the project decided to be changed without my input- And when I attempted to give my opinion, it was shut down as ' a group decision had been made '. This led to me getting extremely frustrated, combined with I don't believe I personally work the same way as they do in terms of professionality. I tend to keep school life and personal life separate, when I am at school and actively working I am not one to joke around which was definitely a point of contention.

Lack of Group Decisions

In regards to my last point of group agreements, I really found that we had no central way to see what had been decided upon or not. We had WhatsApp generally, but not only was that not always checked or shared in, it led to us having to dig for information. This improved a bit with the introduction of the group Notion, but even then towards the end we let that falter a bit.

Lack of Group Agreements

I truly and honestly believe that our ultimate downfall was not finalizing the group working contract. It should have been clear from the start we needed to finalize and agree on that, with real consequences for not following it. It made it impossible to penalize things such as tardiness or the like, as we never fully had an agreement with one another.

Final Thoughts

I most definitely had a hand in how things went. I let a lot of my frustrations build up, because I felt no matter how many times I addressed or said anything it fell on deaf ears. When I finally put my foot down on things I should have really handled it better. I still stand by what I said and how I felt, however I needed to handle it better next time. I believe working separately from the group in one of the solo work rooms really did help though. It made it so we had to better keep up with one another's work, actively discuss things, and finalize the project with less tension. I know I was a main source of tension for people, and I do really regret not trying harder to fix that- However, at the end of the day I needed to focus on myself as well. I just need to handle my own faults in situations in a healthier manner.

Also, setting up a Notion and a work agreement document will be non-negotiable for me next time. I thought these things were unneeded extras that would not help much, but I really think things would have gone so much better if we had created and kept up with them. Keeping

up with sprints, finding time to discuss, writing down what we agree upon- These are essential parts to projects I simply cannot ignore next time.

At the end of the day, everyone holds some fault in what happened, but I need to continue to learn and reflect on how I can help not only myself but others as well if situations such as these arise in the future. I want to do better and be better.