

GRAP2799 Fashion Range Development

Assignment 3B: Individual Course Reflection:

My Journey:

Coming into my second year, taking the core elective of Fashion Range Development; I had been warned by several of the semester long group project; and how quite often it did not work out between groups, with many scorning it. Having been online for the entirety of our first year and only knowing three people, quite minimally; there were plenty of nerves as to who I would work with, and if I would join what would be a great group, or a bad mistake. Coming in on my first day, I saw those three familiar faces and that is what I stuck with for my group decision; presuming as we had formed a small friendship the previous year; things should be simple for us.

Despite knowing that all individuals have their own working styles and ethics; throughout this project, I formed a greater understanding of such. Across the first assignment, our friendships started to crumble, as ethics and perspectives clashed. Some were motivated, while some were not, some did the work early, while others left it to last minute; at the stress of their teammates. Some contributed to group discussions, and some stayed silent or simply did not show up. With these new findings, I understood part of the reasoning, we had a group assignment. I realised, we had to be prepared to work collaboratively upon joining the workforce; and despite preconceptions that it would be a simple thing to do; I was proved wrong.

Despite this realisation; I did not know how to handle the flaws and issues within my group. It begun with confrontations, that received poor results; progressing to passive feelings towards one-another. With issue upon issue; not being resolved nor improved; I took it upon myself to reach out to Carolina – both as I wanted to seek a solution to the issues we were facing; but also out of the desire to protect both myself and my teammates from a poor reflection of work and ethic.

The following week, we participated in the group activity; that Carolina had suggested as a potential resolution. Being in class, teammates were forced to be there to discuss; and we were offered incentives for more constructive conversations. Although we felt our feelings were not greatly received, and nor did we get much in return; we found that moving on from that day; those teammates that were lacking in efforts, had taken a turn in their work ethic. The work was done on time, and to a higher quality. Although not fully restored, the group dynamic had improved and displayed a friendly buzz, once again.

My two key takeaways from this project however, were that constructive communication and active listening was crucial to overcoming team hurdles; ensuring an open insight to any potential underlying issues as well as to provide team solutions. My other key takeaway however, was that despite these solutions and pathways that could be taken to better a team and minimise conflict; not all will have the will to work as a team to overcome such conflicts, and such was sometimes a representation of an individual rather than the team.

Skills Development Reflection:

Looking back on my role within the group setting I feel that the main skills that I developed and displayed were: organisational skills, leadership skills, and adaptability. Each of which, I feel interrelate with each other in the ways that I used them. As one who strives to be organised and prepared; for each assessment I took it upon myself to set up a document; to provide template formatting and all the information necessary to ensure good performance and knowledge of the

assessment. With this I would organise a time where everyone was available to delegate who would work on each segment; and what would be done collaboratively. Here we would plan a deadline for each segment; forming a timeline to track progress. Taking charge of these tasks; and ensuring all were satisfied and got what they wanted; I feel that strong organisation and leadership skills were employed. I feel that my leadership skills were further shown across each assessment; from when I would check-in with all the teammates to see how everyone was tracking along; if timelines were being followed and if anyone needed assistance.

My adaptability skills were grown across the second assessment. Following the delegation of tasks and the settled timeline; the team member who selected the first segment [the survey], did not commit to the timeline. Following various conversations of checking-in and the option of re-delegating tasks to get back on track; the teammate did not provide the work until 2 weeks after their personal deadline; giving 1 week for the rest of the group. With conversations and outcomes not meeting the expectations and likes of both my team and myself; and myself being the type of person who struggles to do work with little time, preferring to start right away; I was in a position where I had to adapt to the outcomes of the group. Being in a situation that I was not used to; and was quite uncomfortable; I had to adapt to the time that I had to produce my work; and learnt that in the end, I was actually able to do my part within the required time; which additionally displays signs of good time management.

In the future however; to strengthen my leadership skills, I believe I need to further develop my ability to problem-solve within team-settings. As with these skills; adaption may not have been required; and all may have been satisfied with results.

If I were applying to a job or internship, this is how I would regard such skills:

- Leadership: I stepped up and took upon a leadership role within an industry project; becoming a voice within the team; a delegator and someone to check progress and team opinions. Through filling this position; I encouraged my team to work through strains, to produce a high distinction result and a healthy group dynamic.
- Organisational: I have displayed organisational skills within an industry program in preparing my team with brief-related data, and the allocation of time-periods for deadlines and collaborations. With this contribution; I have assisted in giving my team work/life balance as well as the ability to produce quality work that could gain us a high distinction.
- Adaptability: Having been put in situations, that myself or my work ethic is strained; I have shown the ability to adapt to changes/strains. This has been displayed within an industry project, in which I had to adapt to a smaller timeframe than expected to complete my work, as a result of group actions.