

Group 17  
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Dear Journal,

I have just finished with the GEE and boy was it a challenge. From the moment it was launched till now it has been one obstacle after the other. There were moments of disappointment, happiness, frustration and victory.

At first, I was disappointed that my team partner and I had been split up. I was now a single. What a horrible thought. My team was a soup of variety, two Nigerians, two Iranians, and an English guy. We had architecture, vet and international business students to name a few.

After the first 24 hours of the GEE I was horrified to find out that no one had emailed me back. I kept checking my email every 5 minutes, eagerly awaiting that first email. And finally on Saturday morning I received one. It was my teammate from England with a great, juicy, creative and new idea just waiting to be jumped into.

The first week was just a matter of getting my team together and contacting everyone. By the end of the week I had almost all my team together and our topic chosen.

The second week was when the pressure started building up. And just before it ended I had the pleasure of welcoming a new member to the team. He was a wonderful addition. He was enthusiastic and contributed to the research. Communication in my team, however, seemed to be on the downward spiral. I wanted to find out what everyone wanted to research and help out with. In the end I was forced to just split the tasks as best as I knew. For me that was hard.

By the third week the race was on. The ideas were flowing and it was time we put our fingers to the keyboards and typed something up. Unfortunate events did occur but the team tried its best to hold everything as best we could.

So how was the overall GEE for me? It was enlightening. Sometimes things do not work out as we have hoped. I have never written and sent so many emails to people. My email manner had to change so as to try to bring out the best of people. Through the emails I tried to encourage teammates to contribute and feel like a valued member of the team.

The GEE has taught me some skills I could use in the future such as communication with other cultures, patience and better report writing skills. It has also taught me that sometimes I am wrong, and that is okay.

The GEE is like no other, and will definitely be remembered by me for a long time.

Thank you  
Anastasiya Nedelcheva