

Oscar Pipson 640s, Team 51
Journal

Two Oscar's and two David's in the same group, what are the chances.

I was fortunate enough to have a really great group full of diversity and difference of opinion. In many ways the diversity was exactly the cliché you would expect from a group. I had the amazingly energetic one, the softly spoken one, the shy one, the one that rarely contributed, the one that joined in a week late and everything in between. It made my job extremely difficult but nonetheless extremely exciting and rewarding.

Whilst their behavior was diverse everyone managed to come together to knock out what I believe is a really strong group project that every member has had a hand in crafting. Over the last 3 weeks I had a chance to converse with every member of my group privately, really building a bond and getting to know one another, I openly encouraged other members to do the same.

I strongly believe there is no singular process for creativity. The number one thing you can do is be a great listener and have empathy towards others opinions. Successful leaders help drive and facilitate conversation and creativity; ensuring projects run efficiently and have direction. I tried my best to be as open, honest and friendly as possible to create an environment that encouraged collaboration, creativity and contribution.

Throughout the 3 weeks there were many challenging moments. It does take some time to understand that other members of the group aren't always going to be as passionate and committed as you, and it can become frustrating getting people engaged and responsive from the outset.

David S from Columbia was a particularly difficult task. For weeks he rarely contributed, I was in contact every few days and he would repetitively say he was rather busy but would get the work done. I found when I paired him with fellow Columbian David G, he became much more active, I guess he felt more comfortable and driven when he was with someone he could relate too. Getting thrown into a group like this can be overwhelming for some, especially when English is a second language.

I had another tricky situation when Angela joined the group a week late. She had failed to make contact and when I finally got her involved she became hesitant over the direction the project was taking and demanded we do something else. I explained that we had decided on direction and its now simply about making it work. I decided to channel her energy into specific tasks related to her economics major and she eventually came round, becoming a key member of our group.

Whilst its easy to dwell on the times of difficulty, I can sit back now and celebrate what has been a demanding three weeks, full of late nights and new experiences. I have enjoyed getting to know 7 new people I now proudly call friends. It's during moments like this you really come to appreciative how refreshing it is to learn from different cultures, nothing quite opens the mind like stepping out of your comfort zone and seeing something from someone else's perspective.

Many thanks to everyone involved with GEE, especially my teammates. I'm now fizzed; the beginning of the Easter holidays could not have come sooner.

Oscar out.