Excitement was the first thing which came to my mind when I received this assignment. I immediately started to investigate and research on potential subjects. After reviewing several topics I concluded that eating insects could resolve many issues in regards to problems such as the environment and the availability of high nutritional food around the globe. I included this in my bio and sent it to my fellow team members. Apparently the appetite was low and people were not so keen to process insects. Instead, they rather liked to live in plastic houses.

Our team-leader, Amelia Rose Benson, came up with the idea to manufacture waste into solid housing bricks. My team-members were very enthusiastic about this idea and I could not wait to start either. However, after agreeing on the subject it became awfully quiet in our online Facebook chat. I did want to proceed as we only had around 10 days left. Therefore, I decided to send a message proposing ideas for our concept and asking how we wish to proceed, yet no-one replied except for Amelia. Amelia teamed us up, made a division of the task and gave us a deadline. She even sent a complete overview of our ideas so far. After sending a few messages, without any reply, to my partner Amber, I decided to start working on my own and started to write our concept and addressed the problems we want to tackle. I handed it in just in time. Unfortunately my mailbox remained almost empty as Amelia was the only one who sent me her piece. Without any expectations I decided to ask the others about their pieces, “just a few more days” was the most common answer.

After these few more days some team-members finally handed in their parts. I couldn’t wait to read all of it. It would be an understatement if I say that it was very poor. I did not know we were writing a piece about plastic surgery? For sure, this was interesting to read but simply did not have anything to do with our report. From that moment on I really started to stress as only a few parts of our report were complete and I was about to have surgery in a few hours, not knowing if I would be able to help others on their parts. I really did not know what to do so I decided to contact my team-leader and expressed my concerns. Apparently she had the same worries as I did and messaged us all explaining this. As nothing good came out of this and we still did not have a financial analysis I opened my 900-page finance schoolbook and started to figure out what to do. It can be said that finance is not my strongest point so it took me some time. After mastering the income-statement I did my research and provided our team with a complete financial overview of the first four years. Is it selfish to say that I feel like I did the impossible? I do not know, but I do feel like I challenged myself.

Amelia and I both wanted to hand in a great report but with non-replying team members and people who were celebrating their holidays this was definitely not working out. Therefore, during the last few days, Amelia and I continued as a duo. I found this extremely disappointing as the purpose of this project is to communicate with people from all over the world and I don’t have the feeling I truly worked within a virtual global team. Luckily our small team operated great. Amelia sent me a concept report and while I was reading it I really started to believe in our proposed concept and came up with the idea to name it the ‘Re-brick’. I did have some questions about the lay-out and APA-style used. As explaining an APA-style in an online chat isn’t exactly on my list of strong points I rang her. When she picked up the phone I explained myself and shared my thoughts. Turns out we were taught things very differently when it comes to the lay-out of a report. We found a great middle way and ended up talking about many other things, such as the great chocolate New Zealand has to offer, which I am promised to receive in my mailbox.
While I am writing this report I am waiting for Amelia to wake up so that we can both double check the final report and hand it in. Overall I absolutely feel like this was a great challenge, as well as an opportunity to not only learn about cultural differences and plastic bricks but moreover to cope with all kinds of differences and come to overall consensus. If you are reading this and consider to join the Global Enterprise Experience I suggest you apply straight away as this project will definitely broaden your horizon.

For now I am just desperately waiting for my box of New Zealand chocolate and of course for the opinions of the judges on our concept, the ‘Re-brick’.

Anne Lueb