

Final Group Project

Sixteen weeks past and we learned a lot from the class and from each other. We also learned a lot about each other. The most fun part of the class for me was the group presentations. Our classmate provided us lots of new information and they presented it in a fun way. Therefore we enjoyed listening to the subjects.

One of the groups that I think deserved to get an A was the first group. Their topic was “Intercultural Tension on Campus”. I think they deserved to get an A because they were the first group and they didn’t have a chance to learn from other group’s mistakes and weaknesses. They also didn’t have a chance to use the tips professor Kahn pointed out after each group presentation. The second reason which makes them stand out from others was the game. I liked the game they had created to get the class attention and to get us involved. In my opinion another strong point was not to load the class with too much information. The reason is sometimes too much information causes the audience loses their interest to the subject.

If I want to evaluate the participation of our group members, I have to say Camille had the highest level of participation. She was constantly in touch with us to make sure everyone was on the same page. One of the elements that helped us to finish our project on time successfully, was availability of our group members. Therefore this way we could easily discuss the problems and review the materials we needed to put together.

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One of the positive points we learned during our contacts for our project was improving our social skills. For example we learned to show more flexibility towards each other in regarding our time schedule or the ideas we had about how to do our project. Another positive point was being tolerant towards each other criticisms. When we started our group project we were not that tolerant about each other's ideas or criticisms. We got easily offended and tried to prove what "I" say is better or correct.

In answering to this question that what idea did we have planned for presentation that worked especially well, I have to say it was organization and the logical flow. One of the things we learned from other groups presentation was to be organized. If you don't know when and how to present your learning materials, this will cause confusion for audience. It also causes audience to get bored waiting for you to put things together in order.

One of the areas didn't go well as well as I expected was the stress management part. Especially I myself had lots of stress during the presentation. I think I needed more practice. I think I had to stand in front on a mirror and repeated my part over and over till I feel more comfortable with it. According to the book called Outwitting Stress by Nancy Rosenberg "stressed students should also remember the importance of practicing."

At the end I have to say that I have learned a lot from the group project Presentations' the following are some of the points I learned from this experiences. The amount of frequency data presented can have positive or negative effects on the audience.

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Lots of repetition and emphasizes may make the atmosphere boring. On the other hand lack of enough repetition of the key points causes confusion. The audience may not get the points you are trying to teach. Eye contact also plays an important role in delivering messages and getting people's attention. According to Interpersonal Messages Communication And Relationship Skills by Joseph A. Devito "the rule of the entire public speaker is to scan the entire audience, not focusing for too long or ignoring any one area of audience." Some members of groups didn't follow this rule and basically they were reading from their notes entire time. This was a weak point that was mentioned few times by professor Kahn.

Another interesting fact I noticed was that students feel less shy and feel more comfortable saying their opinion out loud in group than as individual. According to Living Sociology by Daniel J. Curran and Clair M. Renzetti "Studies show individuals in groups are generally more willing to adopt extreme opinions or engage in risky behavior than they normally would on their own. Social psychologists refer to this phenomenon of a group taking extreme actions than any single member would as group polarization." Sixteen weeks ago when we started the class we did culture presentation. In that presentation students were more conservative to talk about their ideas. On the other hand they seemed more comfortable and outgoing when they presented their group project. At the end the most important point I learned was how effective communication made it possible for each group to present their subject on time and beautifully. We learned to be tolerant towards our differences, use critical thinking and active listening skills. We also

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experienced many things that we had addressed in our textbooks. Professor Kahn also showed us that conflict is an inevitable part of a relationship.

References

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Mina Bonakdar

Professor Kahn

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Speech 5

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