

Midterm Reflection

Daniel West

College 1 Fridays: 10:30am-1:40pm

Due: 10/30/15

My favorite assignment was for my announcing and performing class. My job was to read a movie review off a teleprompter and then help someone I was paired with by giving them signals to show them which camera to look at while they read the movie review.

At first I was having flashbacks to a previous assignment that had gone badly: I had not heard from my partner for a few days, and the cancelation of a few classes made it look like we wouldn't be able to meet to practice until the day of.

At this point I decided that I was not going to have a failed repeat. We had only one take in the studio to get it right, and I was not about to have it end as badly as before. I had to take complete responsibility and do everything I possibly could to make sure that my part of the job was complete.

I took a lot of time as to familiarize myself with the script I'd be reading. I made sure to perform it just like I would be when I was at Pasadena Media where the project would be filmed, sitting down and standing up when the script said I was supposed to. I also practiced doing the hand signals for my partner (even though he wasn't there) by learning where it said in the script he would have to look at another camera or stand up.

My partner and I did not end up meeting until the day of to do a quick run through, but it was a completely different feel from the last assignment. We weren't meeting to scramble and try to do everything we had to do, we were meeting to show how much we had done and polish up a few things.

It turned out he had been hard at work learning the script too, so when we came together, it was only to rehearse as a team what we had mastered by ourselves.

The assignment went really well overall, and I got a lot of feedback when we watched it in class the next week about how it seemed like I "really knew the material" and "had practiced a lot".

My job as his "stage manager" probably could have been better, but my partner also received very positive reviews for his performance.

I've had to realize as I've started college, not everything is going to be perfect, and it shouldn't be. We're here in college to learn. We don't know everything. I've learned through this one and other assignments that have gone well, that if I finish ahead of time, fully know my roll and what I'm doing, and do the very best I can and put quality into everything I do, I'm a pretty good student.

As for the most frustrating experience, I'd have to say the group project for College 1 has been the most frustrating experience so far at PCC. I am thoroughly convinced that we have not spent more than a focused 45 seconds on any topic having to do with this project before veering off on a rabbit trail that has nothing to do with the class.

The first of the two times we met, our article-gathering turned into a deep discussion about life that had very little to do with the project. The second time we met, we ended up in the TLC which was not originally where we planned to meet. This meeting was frequently interrupted and thrown off track by us being silly or by conversations with other students in the TLC who had nothing to do with our class or project.

I feel like I've given this group quite a bit and I'm not getting enough back in return.

I came up with the rolls for the group (who would do what and when we'd meet) and picked the day we'd meet on the fly because I felt if I didn't step up and attempt to lead this group, there would be a serious leadership void and nothing would get done.

I came up with the topic for the poster by piecing together threads that related to the book from conversations that had deviated when I asked for a topic.

I also came up with the thesis for the poster project by simply jotting down ideas while other group members were having a conversation that had absolutely nothing to do with the assignment.

The people in my group are great, and I certainly wouldn't mind shooting the breeze with them between classes as an example, but doing this project has been a very frustrating experience that I don't mind saying I wouldn't necessarily do again if I was given a choice.

It's gotten to the point where every time (in class or out of class) we're meeting, I simply check out and write down ideas to share while everyone else is all over the place having conversations about non-sequitur subjects.

I'm certainly not going to quit or drop the class, but at this point I cannot vouch that all group members will have equally done a share in making the poster.

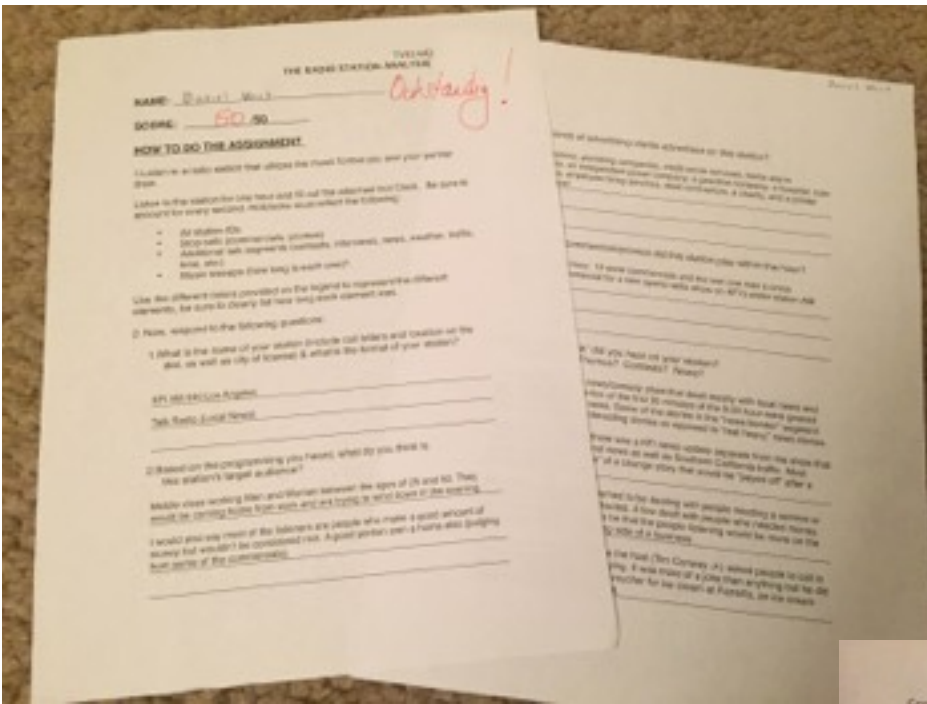
The things that I have learned through this experience that I can take to the rest of my college experience are things that aren't directly tied to studying. They are life things that I've learned through this that will be very helpful in college and beyond. Those things are: patience, a good sense of humor, and an ability to come up with thought-out yet simple ideas.

I say patience because it has taken a lot to continue to give an effort for this group. While things have not gone well, no one has boiled over or is on the verge of blowing up. A lot of that is

because I decided to keep calm and say whatever I have to say in a way that's calm and productive.

Humor because it has become my way to deal with the frustrations without becoming angry, and a way to keep us somewhat focused without being rude or loud.

And thought-out yet simple ideas because I've realized some of the answers or ideas I've had to bring to the group are ones that are original and simple but have made them think. Sometimes the best answer is a simple one.



Artifact 1: For privacy reasons, I'm not allowed to put anything up relating to the movie review assignment, but here is a score on an assignment in my radio production class that I'm very proud of.

Artifact 2:

We did eventually end up doing the group contract, but there was no input from anyone else on this part of it. What you see here eventually went online, and the only things added were names in the group rolls section.

Group Contract

Group Name: _____

Members: Paulina, Quinn, Lucia

1. **GROUP COMMITMENT(S)**
Our Group will meet on the following days and times: (weekly meeting recommended)

Meeting Days	Meeting Times	Location
<u>TUWTF</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Library</u>

What will your communication method be?
A) Text B) email C) Canvas D) Social Media E) GoogleDocs

Phone numbers:

Email addresses:

Specific Behaviors of a good group member: (Communication, participation, effort, etc...)
1. participation
2. participation
3. participation

2. **GROUP ROLES** (For the first meeting, at least)
(These can change and should change from meeting to meeting)

Role/ Name	Duties
Facilitator <u>Paulina</u>	keep meeting on track, direct the group, moderate discussion, and ensure all members are heard
Scheduler/Time Keeper	keep a list of the meeting agenda, and ensure the meeting stays on track and ends on time
Note Keeper	write down the group's decisions and actions, and report back to the group
Quality Control	ensure the group's work is of high quality and meets the requirements
Info Seeker	research and provide information on the topic