

May the 23rd will be one of those days where I'll remember what I was doing on that year, 2013. The hand-in of our GEEBIZ business proposal. It's been a big three weeks and a massive last 24 hours to say the least. Having a power nap of 20 minutes at three in the morning gives you the impression how involved this project really had me. Or perhaps the fact that I left it quite late. Good things take time I tell myself. The editing and layout of the document took longer than I had expected. It still baffles me that, after a mere three weeks, with seven people I'd never met before let alone been to their countries, with all of my group having English as their second language, we created a business proposal of real purpose and quality.

In three weeks, I sure learnt a lot. For example, from the beginning I really wanted to hammer home positivity. I knew that although my experience of leading teams is limited, I could be the best encourager I could be. I couldn't imagine worse than having a project leader that is not enthusiastic about what they are doing. I made a point to always be positive, lifting up and building our team as a family. I firmly believe that the lack of issues we faced as a team is in most part due to the conducive team environment we created. A good team is one that wants to work for each other. I believe encouragement can never be underestimated. Furthermore, I now comprehend the need for understanding. My team members demonstrated amazing understanding of each others views and opinions, which astounds me! I never knew how nice you could be while picking holes in your friends work.

I knew leading by example was paramount so that's what I did. I felt that a team leader could ask people to do things, but if there is weight behind what their asking, then they would act. We as a group used Facebook predominately as a means of communication and this tool made our proposal what it is. It's superb because everyone checks it regularly! My initial emails took a couple of days to get replies from, but Facebook is as fast as a Ferrari in comparison. Plus, you can see when your team has seen what you have posted, even if they don't reply! One thing I would do next time is make my Facebook posts a bit shorter I think. Often as students, we skim over what we're reading or get bored and don't read to the end which I noticed in our group.

Being a leader of an international team is something that's difficult to put words too. It's not about following rules. Every team is different. You can do it however you want to do it. And for me personally, and especially being at University, that's not normal. I am a structured guy. I like having a plan, something practical in front of me. At University, we always have a method, or a theory to substantiate what we are doing. This was different. Yes we learnt about extracting creative techniques, tools for being an innovator and an entrepreneur but in the end, when the push comes to shove, it's your gut and your instinct that determines how you will act. It's a good feeling knowing you've been thrown in the deep end but finding that you can actually swim! By yourself! It's an important lesson that I've learnt. Firstly, that we can achieve far more than we often realise and second that we grow the most in the hard places.

I have to mention my truly wonderful team. The most diverse group I could of imagined was the best group I could have asked for. To think that my team, all who only have English as their second language, created a business proposal of real quality is testament to them. Not to me. Yes I was the leader but you can't teach quality in three weeks. I publicly want to thank Asira, Emily, Elham, Ricardo, Felipe, Shashank and Peter for the hardwork, enthusiasm and dedication that they put in. A special mention to both Shashank and Asira who were the backbone of our idea and implementation.

Bless you guys!



This project takes the cake as the best and hardest thing I've done at University. Unusual combination, but true. The word rewarding comes to mind in the thickest sense. I recall the last three weeks, the lack of sleep, the constant checking of Facebook, the journey, and I just simply smile, because it doesn't matter how hard it was, I would do it all over again, in a heartbeat.